



DRAFT.

# IMPERIAL GAZETTEER.

---

CENTRAL PROVINCES,

NAGPUR DIVISION.



Nagpur:

AT THE SECRETARIAT PRESS, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

1900.

NOT FOR SALE.]

5

*Date of Release  
for loan*

# IMPERIAL GAZETTEER.

---

CENTRAL PROVINCES,

MAHARAJASTHAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
NAGPUR LABEL



*Agpur:*

PRINTED AT THE SECRETARIAT PRESS, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

1906.



# NAGPUR DIVISION.

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Nagpur Division	1
Wardha District	2
Wardha Tahsil	14
Arvi Tahsil	15
Hinganghat Tahsil	15
Arvi Town	16
Ashti	16
Deoli	16
Hinganghat Town	16
Palgaoñ	17
Wardha Town	18
Nagpur District	18
Nagpur Tahsil	30
Ramtek Tahsil	37
Umrer Tahsil	38
Katol Tahsil	38
Kalmeshwar	39
Kamptee	39
Katol Town	39
Kelod	39
Khapa	39
Mohpa	41
Mowar	41
Nagpur City	41
Narkher	45
Ramtek Town	46
Saoner	45
Sitabaldi	47
Umrer Town	49
Chanda District	50
Chanda Tahsil	51
Warora Tahsil	51
Bramhapuri	51
Sironcha	58
Garhohitoli	57
Bhandak	58
Chanda Town	59
Mharkandi	70
Warora Town	71

	PAGE.
<b>Bhandara District</b> ... ..	71
<b>Bhandara Tahsil</b> ... ..	86
<b>Tirora</b> ... ..	ib
<b>Sakoli</b> ... ..	ib
<b>Bhandara Town</b> ... ..	87
<b>Gondia</b> ... ..	88
<b>Pauni</b> ... ..	ib
<b>Tumsar</b> ... ..	ib
<b>Balaghat District</b> ... ..	89
<b>Balaghat Tahsil</b> ... ..	102
<b>Baihar</b> ... ..	103
<b>Balaghat Town</b> ... ..	104
<i>Cross-references (for the Imperial Gazetteer only)</i> ... ..	ib

---

## NAGPUR DIVISION.

**Nagpur Division.**—The southern Division of the Central Provinces, extending from 18° 42' to 22° 24' N. and 78° 3' to 81° 3' E. The Division consists of a large plain lying along the southern base of the Sātpurā hill-ranges and comprised in the valleys of the Wardhá and Waingangá rivers, with a long strip of hilly country on the eastern border. The Nágpur Division includes five Districts as shown below :—

NAGPUR  
DIVISION:

District.			Area <sup>1</sup> in square miles	Population <sup>2</sup> in 1901.	Land revenue and cesses, 1903-04, in thousands of rupees.
Wardhá	...	...	2,428	385,103	7,05
Nágpur	...	...	3,840	751,844	10,84
Chánda	...	...	10,156	581,315	3,75
Bhandára	...	...	3,905	603,062	5,34
Bálághát	...	...	3,132	325,871	
			23,521	2,706,695	29,86

Of these Wardhá and Nágpur in the valley of the Wardhá on the west, with shallow black soil and a light rainfall, constitute the most important cotton-growing tract in the Province, while Bhandára and parts of Chánda and Bálághát in the valley of the Waingangá have been named the lake country of Nágpur, owing to the number of fine tanks constructed for the irrigation of rice. To the north of Bálághát and down the eastern side of Chánda stretch lines of hills approaching the Godávari river in the extreme south of the Province. The headquarters of the Commissioner are at **NAGPUR CITY**. The population of the Division was 2,758,116 in 1881, and increased to 2,982,589 in 1891 or by 8 per cent., the decade having been generally prosperous. At the last census the population had decreased to 2,728,063 or by 8½ per cent., the principal losses being in the eastern or rice

<sup>1</sup> The District figures of area and population have been adjusted to allow for some changes of territory which have taken place since the census of 1901, including the projected transfer of part of Chánda District, with an area of 593 square miles, to Madras Presidency.



NAGPUR  
DIVISION.

Districts which were severely affected by distress or famine in several years, while the population of the western or cotton Districts, which escaped more lightly, remained almost stationary. In 1901 Hindus numbered nearly 84 per cent. of the population, and Animists 13 per cent., while the followers of other religions included Musalmáns (86,931), Jains (6,624) and Christians (7,113), of whom 3,039 were Europeans and Eurasians. The total area is 23,521 square miles and the density of population 115 persons per square mile. The Division contains 24 towns out of the Provincial total of 59, and 7,898 villages. NAGPUR (127,731), the headquarters of the Central Provinces Administration, is the principal commercial centre, and KAMPTEE (38,866) is a cantonment 10 miles from NAGPUR. CHANDA, BHANDAK and RAMTEX contain interesting archaeological remains.

WARDHA  
DISTRICT.  
Boundaries,  
configuration  
and hill and  
river systems

**Wardha District.**—A District in the Nágpur Division of the Central Provinces, lying between  $20^{\circ} 18'$  and  $21^{\circ} 22'$  N. and  $78^{\circ} 3'$  and  $79^{\circ} 14'$  E., and occupying the west of the Nágpur plain, at the foot of the SATPURA hills adjoining Berár. It is bounded on the north by the Amravati District, on the west by the Amravati and Yeotmal Districts of Berár; on the south by Chánda; and on the east by Nágpur. It consists of a long strip of land extending from north-west to south-east along the right bank of the river WARDHA, from which the District takes its name, very narrow at its northern extremity and gradually increasing in width towards the south. Its area is 2,425 square miles. An outlying spur of the Sâtpurá range runs down through the north of the District, and most of the Arví tahsil with the exception of a strip along the bank of the Wardhá is hilly country. The central and southern portion is an undulating plain, intersected by streams, and broken here and there by isolated hills, rising abruptly from its surface. The open country is in parts well wooded, but over considerable areas is scantily furnished with any trees, but the thorny *Acacia arabica* (*Acacia arabica*), and as the detached hills are generally bare and stony, the landscape presents a somewhat desolate and bleak appearance. The villages, generally situated on slightly elevated ground to enable water to



WARDHA  
DISTRICT.  
Fauna.

There is little forest game. Blackbuck are fairly numerous in the open country. Among game birds the bustard may be mentioned, which is found in the south of the District. Pig abound all over the plain and the District is the regular country of the Nāgpur Hunt Club.

Rainfall  
and climate.

The annual rainfall is 41 inches. The climate is hot and dry but healthy. Ophthalmia is prevalent in the summer months. Leprosy was formerly a comparatively common disease, but the most recent figures show a large decrease.

## History.

Very little is definitely known of the history of the District previous to the seventeenth century, but it seems to have been included in the Mughal empire. Pannār was the headquarters of a *Sibak*, subordinate to the governor of Ellichpur, and in this territory was comprised the greater part of the south of the District. Ashtī, with the north of the District, was held by another Muhammadan family which received *sauad* from Jahāngir and Aurangzeb. The Muhammadans penetrated into the southern portion of the Central Provinces as far as Wardhā and Chānda, though Nāgpur and the Districts east of it remained practically an unknown country during the period of their ascendancy. On the fall of the Mughul empire the greater part of the District passed under the control of the Gond Rājās of Deogarh in Chhindwāra, and its subsequent history is that of Nāgpur, which shortly afterwards became their capital. But Ashtī with the tracts adjoining it seems to have been incorporated in the territories of the Nizām of Hyderabad, who, after the Bhonsla conquest, continued in joint possession with the Marāthās, 40 per cent. of the revenue of the tract going to Hyderabad and 60 per cent. to the Nāgpur Rājā. Wardhā with the rest of the Nāgpur kingdom became British territory in 1853, and was formed into a separate District in 1862.

## Archæology.

The archæological remains are of very slight interest, but a number of tombs and temples are objects of pilgrimage. The most important of these is the tomb of a Muhammadan saint Khwāja Shaikh Farīd at Girar on the eastern border of the Hinganghāt tahsīl. The hill which forms the site of his tomb is covered with fossils of the shape of nutmegs, and these are supposed to have been the stock-in-trade



WARDHA  
DISTRICT.

in which these are the sole staples has been generally prosperous. About 86 per cent of the population are Hindus, 10 per cent. Animists, and nearly 4 per cent. Muhammadans. About 75 per cent. of the Gonds in the District are returned as Animists. The statistics of language show that 79 per cent. of the population speak Maráthi; of the remainder 13,612 persons, probably all Muhammadans, speak Urdú, 25,710, principally Bráhmans and Rájputs who have come from northern India, Hindi, 39,385 Gondi, and 2,428 Telugu.

Their castes  
and occupa-  
tions

The principal landholding castes are Maráthá Bráhmans and Kunbis. Bráhmans (10,000) constitute 3 and Kunbis (76,000) 20 per cent. of the population. The leading Bráhman families generally hold the title of Deshpandia, and the Kunbis that of Deshmukh. The Deshmukh was an officer, who under the Gonds was responsible for the settlement of revenue and its collection from the headmen of a circle of villages, and the Deshpandia or head patwári kept the revenue accounts of the same circle. The principal cultivating castes are Kunbis, Telis (39,000) and Múlis (17,000), Telis being considered the most efficient and successful. Gonds number 40,000 or about 10 per cent. of the population. They live in the open country and are generally fairly civilised. There are very few Gond landowners, but numbers of them are tenants and farm-servants; and they are also employed as factory hands, constables, and forest guards. The Kolams are a small tribe akin to Gonds, found in the Aivi tahsil and speaking a dialect of Gondi with an admixture of Telugu. About 75 per cent. of the population of the District are returned as dependent on agriculture.

Christian  
Missions.

Christians number 146, of whom 62 are Presbyterians and 39 Roman Catholics. This figure includes 100 native Christians. The United Free Church of Scotland has a mission station in the town of Wardhá.

General  
agricultural  
conditions.

Nearly the whole area of the District consists of a thin covering of black or dark brown soil over a sheet of trap rock. The earth varies in depth from ten feet to a few inches, the average thickness being about two feet. The best black soil is found principally in the level ground along the left

bank of the Wardhá river. In the hilly country of the north shallow brown soil is found mixed with sand.

More than 120 square miles are held wholly or partially free of revenue, and 2,984 acres have been sold outright under the Waste Land Rules. The principal statistics of cultivation in 1908-04 are shown below, with areas in square miles:—

WARDHA DISTRICT.

Chief agricultural statistics and crops.

Tahsil.	Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Culturable waste.	Forests.
Wardhá ...	800	629	1	87	4
Arvi ...	890	472	2	89	180
Hinganghát ...	729	540	1	141	17
	2,428	1,641	3½	317	201

The occupied area is extremely large, amounting to 81 per cent. of the whole District, excluding Government forest. The largest proportion of unoccupied land is in the Arvi tahsil, where 33 per cent. of the proprietary area is waste. Over most of the District the limit of cultivation has been reached. Cotton and *jowár* (*Sorghum vulgare*) are now the staple crops, covering 573 and 454 square miles respectively. About 160 square miles are devoted to wheat and 128 to linseed. The crops for the spring harvest are grown principally in the Hinganghát tahsil and the southern part of Wardhá and only to a small extent in Arvi. A most noticeable feature of the recent statistics is the substitution of the autumn for the spring crops, the area under cotton and *jowár* grown separately and with an admixture of the pulse *arhar* having increased from 52 to 66 per cent. of the total in the last few years. This is partly to be attributed to the succession of poor wheat harvests, and more particularly to the high price of cotton and the large profits which are obtained from its cultivation. The area under linseed (128 square miles) is larger in Wardhá than in any District of the Province except Nagpur, Raipur and Biláspur. As this crop is more often adversely affected by damp than drought, the soil and climate of Wardhá are favourable to its growth. *Jowár* has now replaced wheat as the staple food of all except the richest classes. Rice is sown in a very small area, chiefly in the Gírar *pargana* of the Hinganghát tahsil. There is scarcely any sugarcane.

WARDHA  
DISTRICT

Garden crops cover about 2,500 acres, and irrigation is practically confined to these. Turmeric (*haladi*) is cultivated in the Hinganghat tahsil especially at Waigaon, called Haldia Waigaon on this account, where a large irrigation tank has been constructed. The District has a number of orange and banana plantations; the bananas of Arvi have some reputation; betel-vine gardens exist in Ashti and Julgaon.

Improvements  
in agricultural  
practices.

At the present time the acreage of the valuable cotton crop increases annually, while more care is expended on its cultivation than formerly, and manure is applied to it whenever obtainable. The three-contered sowing drill and weeding hoe-plough of the Deccan are generally used in Wardha, and some improvement has been made in their construction. Fodder-cutting machines have recently been introduced by the Agricultural department which are considered locally to double the value of *junar* fodder, and several landowners have purchased them. The Hindi agricultural gazette published by the department has a considerable circulation in Wardha, and some landowners have sent their sons to the agricultural training school at Nagpur. A total sum of Rs. 31,000 was advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act in the decade ending 1904, from which a large number of new wells have been constructed and a few field-embankments made. Nearly 3 lakhs were given out in agricultural loans during the same period, about half of this sum having been advanced in the famine of 1900.

Cattle, ponies  
and sheep.

Cattle are bred all over the District and principally in the Arvi tahsil. Special bulls are kept for breeding by all considerable cattle owners. They trot well, and are generally white, and of moderate size, being larger than those of the hill Districts, but smaller than the Berar breeds. Cattle are also imported from Mahara in Hyderabad and from Berar, Hyderabad bullocks being the most expensive. Good milch cows are bred in Arvi and sometimes give as much as 14 to 16 pounds of milk, but the people make no use of cow's milk, as they realise that the calves are weakened if deprived of it. Buffaloes are also bred for manufacturing *ghee*. They are not used for

## WARDHA DISTRICT.

9

draught purposes except on the Wardhá river, where they are employed to carry water. The young males are sold in the rice Districts, or sometimes killed at birth by professional cattle-breeders. Goats and sheep are kept by Dhangars, who slaughter the goats for food, and make rough blankets from the wool of the sheep. A few cultivators have also begun to keep them for their manure.

WARDHA  
DISTRICT.

There are about 700 permanent and 800 temporary wells irrigating 2,400 acres. The ordinary level of the subsoil water is 40 feet below the surface, and wells are very costly, as blasting is usually necessary. Little or no scope exists for remunerative irrigation works.

Irrigation.

The forests of the District cover an area of 201 square miles, and are situated principally in the Arví tahsíl with a small block in the south-east of Hinganghát. There is some teak forest in Arví. Bamboos are very rare. Though the forests are small and not valuable, the large local demand for produce causes a substantial revenue to be derived from them. This amounted in 1903-04 to Rs. 89,000, of which Rs. 12,000 were realised from sales of timber, Rs. 9,000 from fuel, and Rs. 16,000 from grazing.

Forests.

Wardhá contains no minerals. The black basalt supplies a stone which is used for building, but it is extremely hard and difficult to dress, and hence is seldom employed for ornamental buildings. Quarries are worked at Saongí, Borgaon, Náchangáon and Taljápúr.

Minerals.

Cotton-weaving and dyeing are practically the only hand industries, and these are rapidly being destroyed by the competition of the mills. Nearly all large villages still, however, contain a number of Koshtís, who produce rough country cloth, obtaining their yarn from the mills; while in a few places the dyeing of women's clothes and cotton carpets with imported dyeing agents affords a precarious sustenance to members of the usual dyeing castes. Coarse tape for bedsteads is woven from home-spun thread by Gárpagáris, who have been compelled by lack of custom to abandon their ancestral calling of the protection of the crops from hail; and hemp matting and bags are made by the caste of Bhántas who grow the hemp themselves, as no

Arts and  
Manufactures.



WARDHA  
DISTRICT.

other Hindu caste will consent to do so. The Bhāmtas were formerly notorious thieves, and it was said that no girl of the caste accepted a suitor until he had been arrested not less than fourteen times, when she considered that he had attained to manhood; but they have now settled down to this more legitimate avocation. Pārdi is a centre of hemp cultivation.

## Factories.

With the expansion of the cotton trade, ginning and pressing factories have recently been constructed in large numbers, and new ones are opened every year. Hinganghāt has a spinning and weaving mill, and a second spinning mill, while another spinning mill has been opened at Pulgaon. These mills contain altogether 325 looms and 68,040 spindles, and represent about 24.5 lakhs of capital. Their out-turn for 1904 was 61,128 cwt. of yarn and 10,272 cwt. of cloth, most of which is disposed of in Berār and the Central Provinces. The District also contains 89 ginning factories with 1,065 gins and 16 cotton presses, distributed in the towns and larger villages. The collective capital invested in these factories is 26.23 lakhs, and their annual profits were estimated at 3.4 lakhs in 1904. The bulk of them are owned by Mārwarī Baniās, and a few by Marāthā Brāhmans and others. The ginning and pressing factories only work for four or five months in the year. Twenty-six of these factories have been opened within the last five years.

## Commerce.

Cotton, wheat, and linseed are the staple exports of the District. Cotton-seed has lately been exported to Europe. In good years a little *jowār* is sent to Bhandāra, and *arhar* to Calcutta for consumption in Bengal. Hides are sent both to Bombay and Calcutta, and skins to Madras, where they are cured before being shipped to Europe. Yarn and cotton cloth are supplied by the mills of Hinganghāt and Pulgaon to other Districts of the Province and to Cawnpore. There is little or no surplus of forest produce; small teak timber from the Arvi forests is sent to Berār, but it is also imported into the District from Betul. Small quantities of plantains are exported from Arvi. Cotton piece-goods are obtained from Europe through Bombay and Calcutta, and from the Nāgpur and Cawnpore mills. Silk cloths are imported from Umrer and Hyderabad. The salt used is sea salt from the

Thána District. Sugar comes from the Mauritius, and also from Mirzápur, but the latter is the more expensive, and is consumed by the richer classes. *Gur* or unrefined country sugar is brought from Bangalore, and also from Poona District and Kolhápúr State. Potatoes are obtained from the United Provinces, and Chhindwára. Brass vessels are imported from Bhandára, and from Poona and Násik, and glass bangles from Bombay. Berár wheat is consumed in Arví tahsil, and rice is brought from Bhandára and Chhat-tisgarh into the District generally. About 25 per cent. of the export grain trade is in the hands of a European firm, and the remainder is managed by Márwári Baniás and Muhammadan Cutchís. The Cutchís export grain and import salt, sugar, and groceries for retail sale. The *ghí* trade is in the hands of Márwári Baniás and that in yarn and cloth is divided between them and Madrasi Baniás or Komatis. Hides and bones are exported by Madrasi Muhammadans.

WARDHA DISTRICT.

The Great Indian Peninsula Railway line from Bhúsáwal to Nágpur runs through the centre of the District, having a length of 40 miles and six stations within its limits. There is also a branch line from Wardhá junction to Warorá, with a length of 30 miles in the District, and the stations of Sonegaon and Hinganghát. The chief feeder roads are those leading from Arví and Deolí to Pulgaon, from Deolí, Khárangná and Sailú to Wardhá, from Hingná to Sindí, and from Pohná and Samudrapur to Hinganghát. The District has 48 miles of metalled and 136 of unmetalled roads, and the annual expenditure on maintenance is Rs. 25,000. The Public Works department maintain 123 miles of road and the District council 60 miles. Avenues exist on 39 miles.

Railways and Roads.

In 1832-33 heavy rain in the cold weather months made the autumn crops rot on the threshing floors, and blighted the spring harvest, causing severe distress and heavy mortality. In 1868-69 Wardhá was not acutely distressed, and as the construction of the railway was in progress, the demand for labour was ample. Again, in 1896-97, the District obtained half a normal harvest, and such distress as occurred was due to the high price of grain. In 1899-1900, owing to the complete failure of the rains, the crop obtained was only a

Famine.

**WARDHA DISTRICT.** quarter of normal, and this followed a poor harvest in the previous year. Distress was acute and relief measures continued for fourteen months, 103,000 persons or nearly 26 per cent. of the whole population being in receipt of assistance in July 1900. The total expenditure was 20 lakhs. Besides road works, some tanks were constructed and improved, and many wells were deepened.

**District sub-divisions and staff.** The Deputy Commissioner has a staff of three Assistant or Extra-Assistant Commissioners. For administrative purposes the District is divided into three tahsils, each of which has a tahsildár and a naib-tahsildár. The District is included in the Nágpur, Forest and Public Works divisions and has no separate Forest Officer or Executive Engineer.

**Civil and Criminal Justice.** The civil judicial staff consists of a District and three Subordinate Judges, two Munsiffs at Wardhá, and one each at Arvi and Hinganghát. The Divisional and Sessions Judge, Nágpur Division, has civil and criminal jurisdiction in Wardhá. A common form of offence is that of theft of ornaments from the body of persons asleep. Much jewellery is worn, as the people are well-to-do, and it is a general practice to sleep outside. The civil litigation is heavy, and owing to the value of land, disputes affecting insignificant areas are not infrequently carried to the highest courts.

**Land Revenue administration.** Up to 1862 Wardhá was a part of the Nágpur District, and no separate account of its revenue administration need be given. A 30 years settlement was made between 1862 and 1866, at which proprietary rights were conferred. The revenue was fixed at 4'16 lakhs, which was practically the same as that existing before revision, and represented 79 per cent. of the assets, the proportion taken by the Maráthás having always been very high. During this settlement, the District prospered greatly. The increase in cultivation was nearly 18 per cent., while the prices of agricultural produce rose by 150 per cent. The District was reassessed between 1891 and 1894 for a term varying from 16 to 18 years. The demand was raised to 6'6½ lakhs, which fell at 59½ per cent. on the assets, and was an increase of 25 per cent. on the previous assessment. The average revenue incidence per acre is R. 0-10-2 (highest R. 1-4-5, lowest R. 0-5-2) while that of

the rental is R. 0-15-0 (highest R. 1-15-0, lowest R. 0-7-4). The collections of revenue have varied as shown below, in thousands of rupees :—

WARDHA  
DISTRICT.

	1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-01.
Land revenue ...	5,14	5,20	6,72	6,42
Total revenue ...	8,81	10,57	10,71	11,53

Local affairs outside municipal areas are entrusted to a District council and three local boards, each having jurisdiction over one tahsil. The income of the District council for 1903-04 was Rs. 79,000 and the expenditure on education was Rs. 22,000, on civil works Rs. 20,000, and on medical relief nearly Rs. 8,000. WARDHA, ARVI, HINGANGHAT, DEOLI and PULGAON are municipal towns.

The force under the District Superintendent of Police consists of 392 officers and men including 3 mounted constables, besides 1,228 village watchmen for 906 inhabited towns and villages. Wardha has a District jail with accommodation for 31 prisoners, including 8 females. The daily average number of prisoners in 1904 was 57.

In respect of literacy the District stands seventh in the Province, 3.9 per cent. of the population (7.6 males, and .2 females) being able to read and write. The percentage of children under instruction to those of school-going age is 12. Statistics of the number of pupils in schools are as follows—1880-81, 3,685; 1890-91, 5,296; 1900-01, 5,878; 1903-04, 6,704, including 159 females. The educational institutions comprise four English middle schools, eight vernacular middle schools, and 88 primary schools. There are girls' schools at Wardha, Hinganghat and Arvi. The expenditure on education in 1903-04 was Rs. 36,000, of which Rs. 31,000 were provided from Provincial and local funds, and Rs. 4,700 from fees.

The District has 10 dispensaries, with accommodation for 85 in-patients. In 1904, 102,991 cases, of which 448 were of indoor patients, were treated, and 2,372 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 14,000. A veterinary dispensary has also been opened at Wardha.

**WARDHA  
DISTRICT.  
Vaccination.**

Vaccination is compulsory in the municipal towns of Wardhá, Hinganghát, Arvi and Deoli. The number of persons successfully vaccinated in 1903-04 was 47 per mille of the District population. A considerable degree of protection has now been attained in this respect.

(Rai Bahádúr Purshotam Dás, *Settlement Report*, 1895. A District Gazetteer is under preparation.)

**WARDHA  
TAHSIL.**

**Wardha Tahsil.**—The central and headquarters tahsíl of the Wardhá District, Central Provinces, lying between 20° 30' and 21° 3' N. and 78° 15' and 78° 56' E., with an area of 809 square miles. The population in 1901 was 152,565, and in 1891 was 138,215. The density of population per square mile is 188 persons, which is above the District average. The tahsíl contains three towns, WARDHA, the District and tahsíl headquarters, population 9,872, DEOLI (5,008) and PULGAON (4,710), and 814 inhabited villages. Excluding 4 square miles of Government forest, 86 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was, 629 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 2,58,000 and that for cesses Rs. 25,000. The north-eastern portion of the tahsíl forming the Koljhar *pargana* is hilly, and the remainder is an undulating plain intersected by small streams and broken by low hills. Cotton and *jowár* are the principal crops.

**ARVI  
TAHSIL.**

**Arvi Tahsil.**—The northern tahsíl of the Wardhá District, Central Provinces, situated between 20° 45' and 21° 22' N. and 78° 3' and 78° 39' E., with an area of 890 square miles. The population in 1901 was 137,737, and in 1891 was 131,174. The tahsíl has two towns, ARVI, the tahsíl headquarters, population 10,676, and ASHTI (5,237), and 299 inhabited villages. The density of population per square mile is 155 persons. The tahsíl is an important cotton tract, and is known also for its fine breed of cattle. The eastern portion is hilly, while to the west a narrow strip of very fertile black soil lies along the bank of the Wardhá river. Excluding 180 square miles of Government forest, 70 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 472 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 1,98,000 and that for cesses Rs. 19,000.



**ASHTI.** District and Berár under the Mughal empire, and two handsome mausoleums built over the graves of Afghan nobles who administered these territories during the reign of Jahángír are still standing. A cotton ginning and pressing factory was erected in 1894. Ashtí possesses an English middle school, and a town fund is raised for purposes of sanitation.

**DEOLI.** Deoli.—A town in the Wardhá tahsil and District, Central Provinces, situated in  $20^{\circ} 39' N.$  and  $78^{\circ} 29' E.$ , at a distance of 11 miles from Wardhá and 5 miles from Degzon station. Population (1901) 5,008. Deoli was created a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 4,200. In 1903-04 the receipts were Rs. 6,000 and were derived chiefly from fees on the registration of cattle. Deoli was formerly an important cotton-mart, but has been supplanted by towns on the railway, and the population is now less than in 1872. It contains a hand cotton-weaving industry which is not prosperous, and a large weekly cattle-market is held here. The town has a vernacular middle school and a dispensary.

**HINGANGHAT  
TOWN.**

**Hinganghat Town.**—The headquarters town of the Hinganghát tahsil, Wardhá District, Central Provinces, situated in  $20^{\circ} 34' N.$  and  $78^{\circ} 51' E.$ , on the Wardhá-Warora branch line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, 21 miles from Wardhá and 492 from Bombay. The town is on the Wunná river. Population (1901) 12,682. An outbreak of plague in 1898 has not affected its prosperity. The name means the *ghát* or crossing. *ghát* *lingan* trees (*Balanites aegyptiaca*). Old Hinganghat was a straggling ill-arranged town, liable to be flooded by the river Wunná during the mousoon. The new town a quarter of a mile distant from the old one is laid out in two sets of three broad streets at right angles to each other and furnished with rows of trees like boulevards. Hinganghát was created a municipality in 1867, and the average receipts and expenditure for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 35,000. By 1903-04 the income had largely expanded, and amounted to Rs. 70,000, octroi being the principal head of receipt. The town is a leading centre of the cotton trade. The Hinganghát Mill

Company was established in 1881 and has a capital of 3.5 lakhs and 30,888 spindles. Another mill, with nearly 15,000 spindles and 160 looms, began work in 1900, and is the sole property of a resident of Hinganghāt, who has invested 13 lakhs in it. There are also 10 cotton ginning factories and 4 pressing factories, containing 265 gins and 2 presses, with a united capital of about 7 lakhs. The town is supplied with water from the Wunnā river. A filtration well has been sunk in the bed of the river at a distance of about 2 miles, from which water is pumped into an elevated reservoir and distributed to the urban area in pipes. The works were opened in 1883, the capital expenditure being 1.36 lakhs and the annual maintenance charges Rs. 8,000. Hinganghāt has a high school and a dispensary, and a town hall has recently been built. Other large public improvements already projected and likely to be completed in the immediate future are the improvement and extension of the water-works and the construction of a market.

HINGANGHAT  
TOWN.

Pulgaon.—A town in the Wardhá tahsíl and District of the Central Provinces, situated in 20° 44' N. and 78° 19' E., on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, 19 miles from Wardhá and 452 from Bombay. Population (1901) 4,710. Pulgaon is quite a new town and originally consisted of a collection of huts of the workmen who built the railway bridge over the Wardhá river, close by, the name meaning bridge village. It was constituted a municipality in 1901, and the receipts and expenditure for 1903-04 were Rs. 11,000 and 7,000 respectively. The income was derived principally from road tolls and rents of land. Pulgaon is an important centre of the cotton trade, receiving the produce of nearly the whole of the Arví tahsíl. The Pulgaon Spinning Mills were opened in 1892 with a capital of 5 lakhs, and have nearly 15,000 spindles. The outturn of yarn for 1904 was 21,800 cwt., valued at more than 10 lakhs. A weaving department containing 105 looms was added in 1902 at an additional cost of 3½ lakhs. There are also 5 cotton ginning factories and 3 pressing factories, with a total capital of 4½ lakhs and containing 146 gins and 3 presses. Pulgaon has a primary school and a dispensary.

PULGAON.



**WARDHA  
TOWN.**

**Wardha Town.**—The headquarters town of the Wardhá District, Central Provinces, situated in  $20^{\circ} 45' N.$  and  $78^{\circ} 37' E.$ , on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, 471 miles from Bombay and 49 from Nagpur. It is also the junction for the branch line to Warará in the Chánda District. Population (1901) 9,872. Since 1872 the population has nearly trebled. The present town was founded in 1866, the site having been selected for the headquarters of the new District of the same name, and has been carefully laid out with wide and regular streets so as to permit of expansion. It was created a municipality in 1874, and the average municipal receipts and expenditure for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 33,000 and Rs. 34,000, respectively. In 1903-04 the income had expanded to Rs. 45,000, the chief sources being road tolls, a water-rate and miscellaneous receipts. Wardhá is an important cotton mart, and contains 7 ginning and 4 pressing factories, with 164 gins and 4 presses, and a total capital of about 5 lakhs. There are four printing presses, three of which use English and Maráthí type and one only Maráthí. The water-supply of the town is obtained from the Dhám river at a distance of 5 miles. A dam has been constructed across the river at Pánsár, giving a level sheet of water for about six furlongs. The water is led through artificial filter-beds of sand to an underground reservoir, and thence pumped into an elevated service tank from which it is carried to the town. The water-works were completed in 1892 at a cost of 2.25 lakhs. A weekly cattle market is held here. Wardhá has an English middle school and girls' school, three dispensaries, including mission and police hospitals, and a veterinary dispensary. Further public improvements to be carried out in the immediate future are the construction of a high school and hostel at an expenditure of Rs. 25,000 and a complete drainage scheme to cost Rs. 35,000.

**NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.  
Boundaries,  
configuration  
and hill and  
river systems.**

**Nagpur District.**—A District of the Central Provinces, with an area of 3,840 square miles, lying between  $20^{\circ} 35'$  and  $21^{\circ} 44' N.$ , and  $78^{\circ} 15'$  and  $79^{\circ} 40' E.$ , in the plain to which it gives its name at the southern base of the Sátpurá hills.

It is bounded on the north by the Chhindwára and Seoni Districts; on the east by Bhandára; on the south and west by the Chánda and Wardhá Districts; and along a small strip on the north-west by the Amraoti District of Berár. The greater part of the District is an undulating plain, but it is traversed by low hill ranges. In the north a strip of the Sátpurá hills is included within its limits, narrow on the west, but widening to a breadth of 12 miles or more towards the east. Immediately south of them lies the western extremity of the Ambágarh hills on which stand the well-known temples of Rámtek. On the western border another low range of hills runs down the length of the District, and after a break formed by the valley of the Wunná river, continues to the south-east past Umrer cutting off on its southern side the valley of the Nand. A third small range called the Pílkápár hills crosses the Kátol tahsil from north to south. There are also a few detached hills, notably that of SITABALDI in Nágpur city, which is visible for a long distance from the country round. The hills attain to no great altitude, the highest peaks not exceeding 2,000 feet, but vary greatly in appearance, being in places extremely picturesque, and clothed with forest, while elsewhere they are covered by loose stones and brushwood, or are wholly bare and arid. The Wardhá and Waingangá rivers flow along part of the western and eastern borders respectively, and the drainage of the District is divided between them. The waters of about a third of its area on the west are carried to the Wardhá by the Jám, the Wunná, and other minor streams. The centre is drained by the Pench and Kanhán, which, flowing south through the Sátpurá hills, unite just above Kamptee, where they are also joined by the Kolár; from here the Kanhán carries their joint waters along the northern boundary of the Umrer tahsil to meet the Waingangá on the Bhandára border. To the east a few small streams flow direct to the Waingangá. The richest part of the District is the western half of the Kátol tahsil cut off by the small ranges described above. It possesses a soil profusely fertile, and teems with the richest garden cultivation. Beyond the Pílkápár hills the plain country extends to the eastern border. Its surface is scarcely

**NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.**

ever level, but it is closely cultivated, abounds in mango-groves and trees of all sorts, and towards the east is studded with small tanks which form quite a feature in the landscape. The elevation of the plain country is from 900 to 1,000 feet.

**Geology.**

The primary formation of the rocks is sandstone associated with shale and limestone. The sandstone is now covered by trap on the west, and broken up by granite on the east, leaving a small diagonal strip running through the centre of the District and expanding on the north-west and south-east. The juxtaposition of trap, sandstone, and granite rocks in this neighbourhood invests the geology of Nagpur with special importance.

**Botany.**

The forests are mainly situated in a large block on the Sâtpurâ hills to the north-east, while smaller isolated patches are dotted on those extending along the south-western border. The forest growth varies with the nature of the soil, *sâj* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *achâr* (*Buchanania latifolia*) and *tendû* (*Diospyros tomentosa*) being characteristic on the heavy soils, teak on good well-drained slopes, *salai* (*Boswellia serrata*) on the steep hill sides and ridges, and satinwood on the sandy levels. In the open country mango, *mahnû* (*Bassia latifolia*), tamarind, and date-palm are common.

**Fauna.**

There is nothing noteworthy about the wild animals of the District, and from the sportsman's point of view it is one of the poorest in the Province. Pig abound all over the country, finding shelter in the large grass reserves or groves of date-palm. Partridge, quail and sandgronse are fairly common, bustard are frequently seen in the south, and florican occasionally. Suipe and duck are obtained in the cold weather in a few localities.

**Climate and  
temperature.**

Nagpur has the reputation of being one of the hottest places in India during the summer months. In May the temperature rises to 116°, while falling on clear nights as low as 70°. In the rains the highest day temperature seldom exceeds 95°, and the lowest at night is about 70°. In the cold weather the highest temperature is between 80° and 90° and the lowest about 50°. Except for three months from April to June, when the heat is intense, and in September, when

the atmosphere is steamy and the moist heat very trying, NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.  
the climate of Nágpur is not unpleasant

The average rainfall is 46 inches, but less is received in the Rainfall.  
west than in the east of the District. Complete failure of the  
rainfall has in the past been very rare, but its distribution is  
capricious, especially towards the end of the monsoon, when  
the fate of the harvest is in the balance.

There is no historical record of Nágpur prior to the History.  
commencement of the 18th century, when it formed part of  
the Gond kingdom of Deogarh, in Chhindwára. Bakht  
Buland, the reigning prince of Deogarh, proceeded to Delhi  
and appreciating the advantages of the civilisation which  
he there witnessed, determined to set about the development  
of his own territories. To this end he invited Hindu  
artificers and husbandmen to settle in the plain country and  
founded the city of Nágpur. His successor, Chánd Sultán,  
continued the work of civilisation and removed his capital to  
Nágpur. On Chánd Sultán's death in 1739 there were disputes  
as to the succession, and his widow invoked the aid of Raghují  
Bhonsla, who was governing Berár on behalf of the  
Peshwá. The Bhonsla family were origioally headmen  
of Deorá, a village in the Sátára District, from which place  
their present representative derives his title of Rájá. Raghují's  
grandfather and his two brothers had fought in the armies  
of Sivají, and to the most distinguished of them was en-  
trusted a high military command and the collection of *chauth*  
in Berár. Raghují, on being called in by the contending  
Gond factions, re-placed the two sons of Chánd Sultán on the  
throne from which they had been ousted by a usurper, and  
retired to Berár with a suitable reward for his assistance.  
Dissensions, however, broke out between the brothers, and in  
1743 Raghují again intervened at the request of the elder  
brother, and drove out his rival. But he had not the heart to  
give back a second time to the weaker Gond the country he  
held within his grasp. Barhán Sháh, the Gond Rájá, though  
retaining, from motives of policy on Raghují's part, the out-  
ward insignia of royalty, became practically a state pensioner  
and all real power passed to the Maráthá chief. Bold and

NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.

decisive in action Raghují was the perfect type of a Maráthá leader; he saw in the troubles of other states only an opening for his own ambition, and did not even require a pretext for plunder and invasion. Twice his armies invaded Bengal, and he obtained the cession of Cuttack. Chánda, Chhattisgarh and Sambalpur were added to his dominions between 1745 and 1755, the year of his death. His successor Jánóji took part in the wars between the Peshwá and Nizám, and after he had in turn betrayed both of them, they united against him, and sacked and burnt Nágpur in 1765. On Jánóji's death his brothers fought for the succession, until one shot the other on the battle field of Pánelgaon, six miles south of Nágpur, and succeeded to the regency on behalf of his infant son Raghují II, who was Jánóji's adopted heir. In 1785 Mandlá and the upper Nairhadá valley were added to the Nágpur dominions by treaty with the Peshwá. Mudhoji, the regent, had courted the favour of the English, and this policy was continued for some time by his son Raghují II, who acquired Hoshangábád and the lower Nairbadá valley. But in 1803 he united with Sindhia against the British Government. The two chiefs were decisively defeated at Assaye and Argaon, and by the treaty of Deogaon of that year Raghují ceded to the British Cuttack, southern Berár and Sambalpur, which was, however, relinquished in 1806.

Up to this date the Maráthá administration had been on the whole a good one, and the country had prospered under their rule. The first four of the Bhonslas were military chiefs with the habits of rough soldiers, connected by blood and by constant familiar intercourse with all their principal officers. Descended from the class of cultivators they ever favoured and fostered that order. They were rapacious but seldom cruel to the lower classes. Up to 1792 their territories were seldom the theatre of hostilities, and the area of cultivation and revenue continued to increase under a fairly equitable and extremely elementary system of government. After the treaty of Deogaon, however, all this was changed. Raghují had been deprived of a third of his territories and he attempted to make up the loss of revenue from the remainder.

The districts were mercilessly rackrented and many new taxes imposed. The pay of the troops was in arrears and they maintained themselves by plundering the cultivators, while at the same time commenced the raids of the Pindáris, who became so bold that in 1811 they advanced to Nágpur and burnt the suburbs. It was at this time that most of the numerous village forts were built, to which on the approach of these marauders the peasant retired and fought for bare life, all he possessed outside the walls being already lost to him.

On the death of Raghuji II in 1816, his son, an imbecile, was soon supplanted and murdered by the famous Mudhoji or Appa Sahib. A treaty of alliance providing for the maintenance of a subsidiary force by the British was signed in this year, a Resident having been appointed to the Nágpur court since 1799. In 1817, on the outbreak of war between the British and the Peshwa, Appa Sahib threw off his cloak of friendship, and accepted an embassy and title from the Peshwa. His troops attacked the British and were defeated in the brilliant action at SITABALDI, and a second time round Nágpur. As a result of these battles the remaining portion of Berár and the territories in the Narbadá valley were ceded to the British. Appa Sahib was reinstated on the throne, but shortly afterwards ~~was discovered to be again intriguing, and was deposed, and forwarded to Allahabad in custody.~~ On the way, however, he corrupted his guards, and escaped, first to the Mahádeo hills and subsequently to the Punjab. A grandchild of Raghuji II was then placed on the throne, and the territories were administered by the Resident from 1818 to 1830, in which year the young ruler known as Raghuji III. was allowed to assume the actual government. He died without heirs in 1853 and his territories were then declared to have lapsed. Nágpur was administered by a Commissioner until the formation of the Central Provinces in 1861. During the Mutiny a scheme for a rising was formed by a regiment of irregular cavalry in conjunction with the disaffected Muhammadans of the town, but was frustrated by the prompt action of

NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.

the civil authorities, supported by Madras troops from Kamptec. Some of the native officers and two of the leading Muhammadans of the city were hanged from the ramparts of the fort, and the disturbances ended. The aged Maráthí princess Baká Bai, widow of Raghuji II, used all her influence in support of the British, and largely contributed by her example to keep the Maráthá districts loyal.

## Archæology.

In several localities in the District are found circles of rough stones sometimes extending over considerable areas. Beneath some of them fragments of pottery, flint arrow heads, and ironware, evidently of great antiquity, have been discovered. These were constructed by an unknown race, but are ascribed by the people to the pastoral Gaolis, and are said to be their encampments or burial places. The remains of the fort of Páraseoní constructed of unhewn masses of rock are also ascribed to the Gaolis, and date from a very early period. The buildings of Rámtek, Kátol, Kelod and Saoner are separately described. Other remains which may be mentioned are the old Gond fort of Bhiugarh on the Pench river, and the temples of Adása and Bhimgaon, and of Jálkhápur on the Saoner road.

## The people.

The population of the District in the last three years of census was as follows: 1881, 697,356; 1891, 757,862; 1901, 751,844. Between 1881 and 1891 the increase was nearly 9 per cent., the District having been generally prosperous. During the last decade the population has been almost stationary. The number of deaths exceeded that of births in the years 1894 to 1897 inclusive, and also in 1900. There was a considerable loss of population in the wheat-growing tracts of Nágpur and Umrer, while the towns and the cotton lands of Kátol showed an increase. There are twelve towns—NAGPUR, the District headquarters, KAMPTEE, UMRER, RAMTEK, NARKHER, KHAPA, KATOL, SAONER, KALNESHWAR, MOKRA, KELOD, and MOWAR, and 1,681 inhabited villages. The urban population amounts to 32 per cent. of the total and is the highest in the Province. Some of the towns are almost solely agricultural, and these as a rule are now declining in importance. But others which are favourably situated for trade, or for the

establishment of cotton factories, are growing rapidly. **NAGPUR DISTRICT.**  
The following table gives the principal statistics of population in 1901 :—

Tahsil.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Nágpur ..	871	4	417	206,117	240	+ 0.6	21,955
Rámtek ...	1,129	2	451	150,663	139	— 0.3	3,820
Umner ...	1,040	1	457	136,476	131	— 8.6	3,610
Kátol ...	800	5	350	162,598	200	+ 3.6	4,718
District Total ..	3,840	12	1,681	751,844	195	— 0.8	37,003

About 88 per cent. of the population are Hindus, nearly 6 per cent. Muhammadans, and 5 per cent. Animists. There are 2,075 Jains and 481 Pársís. Three-fourths of the Muhammadans live in towns. Many of them come from Hyderábád and the Deccan, and they are the most turbulent class of the population. About 77 per cent. of the population speak Maráthí, 9 per cent. Hindí, 5½ per cent. Gondí, 5 per cent. Urdú, and 1 per cent. Telugu. It is curious that nearly all the Gonds in the District were returned at the census as retaining their own vernacular.

The principal landholding castes are Bráhmans (23,000), **Kunbís** (152,000) and Maráthás (11,000). Their castes and occupations. The Maráthás naturally form the large majority of this caste, and besides being the most extensive proprietors, are engaged in money-lending, trade, and the legal profession, and almost monopolise the better class of appointments in Government service. The Kunbís are the great cultivating class. They are plodding and patient, with a strong affection for their land, but wanting in energy as compared with the castes of the northern Districts. The majority of the villages owned by Maráthás are included in the estates of the Bhonsla family and their relatives. A considerable proportion of the Government political pensioners are Maráthás. Many of them also hold villages or plots, but as a rule they are extravagant in their living, and several of the



NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.

old Maráthá nobility have fallen in the world. The native army does not attract them, and but few are sufficiently well educated for the more dignified posts in the civil employ of Government. Raghvís (12,000), Lodhís (8,000) and Kirárs (4,000) represent the immigrants from Hindustán and are exceptionally good cultivators. The Kirárs, however, are much given to display and incur extravagant expenditure on their dwelling houses and jewellery, while the Lodhís are divided by constant family feuds and love of faction. There are nearly 46,000 Gonds, constituting 6 per cent. of the population. They have generally attained to some degree of civilisation, and grow rice instead of the light millets which suffice for the needs of their fellow tribesmen on the Sátpurás. The monialcaste of Mahárs form a sixth of the whole population, the great majority being cultivators and labourers. The rural Mahár is still considered as impure, and is not allowed to drink from the village well, nor may his children sit at school with those of the Hindu castes. But there are traces of the decay of this tendency, as many Mahárs have become wealthy and risen in the world. About 53 per cent. of the population were returned as dependent on agriculture in 1901.

Christian  
Missions.

Christians number 6,163, of whom 2,870 are Europeans and Eurasians and 3,293 natives. Of the Christians the majority are Roman Catholics and belong to the French Mission in Nágpur. There are also a number of Presbyterians, the converts of the Scotch Free Church Mission. Nágpur is the headquarters of a Roman Catholic Diocese, which supports high and middle schools for European and Eurasian children, and natives, and orphanages for boys and girls, the clergy being assisted by French nuns of the Order of St. Joseph who live at Nágpur and Kámptee. A Mission of the Free Church of Scotland is also located here, and supports a number of educational and other institutions at Nágpur itself and in the interior of the District; among these may be mentioned the Hislop Aided College, numerous schools for low-caste children, an orphanage and boarding-school for Christian girls, and the Mure Memorial Hospital for women. A small mission of the Church of England is also located in Nágpur, and one of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Kámptee.

The prevailing soil is that known as black cotton. It seldom attains to a depth of twelve feet, and is superimposed on a band of conglomerate and brown clay. Rich black clay is only found in very small quantities, and the commonest soil is a dark loam mixed with limestone pebbles and of very considerable fertility. The latter covers 65 per cent. of the cultivated area, and of the remainder 27 per cent. consists of an inferior variety of the same soil, very shallow and mixed with gravel or sand, and occurring principally in the hilly country. Very little really poor land is thus under cultivation.

About 383 square miles are held wholly or partially free of revenue and 2,500 acres of Government land have been settled on the ryotwari system. The balance of the District area is held on the ordinary tenures. The following table shows the principal statistics of cultivation in 1903-04, areas being in square miles:—

NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.  
General agri-  
cultural con-  
ditions.

Chief agricul-  
tural statis-  
tics and  
crops.

Taluk.	Total.	Culti- vated.	Irrigated.	Cultu- rable waste.	Forests.
Nagpur ...	871	578	3	140	42
Bhindik ...	1,129	511	5	166	343
Umter ...	1,040	504	12	311	71
Katol ...	800	540	4	114	56
Total ...	3,840	2,226	21	740	515

*Jowar* and cotton are the principal crops, covering either alone or mixed with the pulse *arhar* 661 and 633 square miles respectively. Of other crops wheat occupies 353 square miles, *til* 84 square miles, linseed 132 square miles, and gram 31 square miles. Cotton and *jowar* are grown principally in the west and centre of the District, rice in the east, where the rainfall is heavier, and wheat, linseed and gram in the centre and south. The main feature of recent years is the increase in the area under autumn crops, cotton and *jowar*, which are frequently grown in rotation. The acreage of cotton and cotton-*arhar* has more than doubled since settlement, and that of *jowar* and *jowar* with *arhar* has risen by 23 per cent. This change is to be attributed mainly to the high prices prevailing for

NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.

cotton, and partly also to the succession of unfavourable spring harvests which have lately been experienced. Wheat shows a loss of 146 square miles and linseed of 106 during the same period. There are two principal varieties of cotton, of which one with a very short staple but yielding a larger supply of lint is generally preferred. Cotton-seed is now a valuable commercial product. The recent years of short rainfall have had a prejudicial effect on the rice crop, the area under which was only 22 square miles as against 50 at settlement. The bulk of the rice grown is transplanted. A number of profitable vegetable and fruit crops are also grown, the most important of which are oranges which covered 1,000 acres in 1903-04, chillies nearly 6,000 acres, castor nearly 4,000 acres, tobacco 450 acres, and turmeric 170 acres. About 17,000 acres were under fodder-grass in the same year. The leaf of the betel-vine gardens of Rámtek has a special reputation, and it is also cultivated at Páraseoní and Mansar, about 130 acres being occupied altogether. *Kaphúri pán* is grown for local consumption and *Bengald* for export.

Improvements  
in agricul-  
tural practice.

The occupied area increased by 12 per cent. during the currency of the 30 years settlement (1863-64) and has further increased by 3 per cent. since the last settlement (1892-94). The scope for further extension is very limited. The acreage of the valuable cotton crop increases annually, and more care is devoted to its cultivation than formerly. Cotton fields are manured whenever a supply is available, and the practice of pitting manure is growing in favour. In recent years the embankment of fields with low stone walls to protect them from erosion has received a great impetus in the Kátol tahsil. In the ten years ending 1904, Rs. 79,000 were advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act for the construction of wells, tanks and field embankments, and 1·77 lakhs under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

Cattle, ponies  
and sheep.

Owing to the scarcity of good grazing grounds the bulk of the agricultural cattle used are imported, it being estimated that only 25 per cent. are bred locally. The hilly country in the north of the Rámtek tahsil is the principal breeding ground. Cattle are imported from Berár, Chhindwára and Chánda. Buffaloes are kept for the manufacture of

*ghí.* Goats are largely bred and sold for food, while the flocks are also hired for their manure. Cattle races take place annually at Silli in Umrer, at Irsi in Rámtek, and at Sakardará near Nágpur, these last being held by the Bhonsla family. Large weekly cattle-markets are held at Sonagaon, Kodámendhi, Bhiwápúr, and Mohpá.

NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.

Only 25 square miles are irrigated, the bulk of which is rice and the remainder vegetable and garden crops. Wheat occasionally gets a supply of water, if the cultivator has a well in his field. The District has 905 irrigation tanks and 4,302 wells. A project for the construction of a large reservoir at Rámtek, to irrigate 40,000 acres and protect another 30,000, at an estimated cost of 16 lakhs, has been sanctioned.

Irrigation.

The Government forests extend over 515 square miles, of which nearly 350 are situated on the foot-hills of the Sátpurás on both sides of the Pench river, and 170 consist of small blocks lying parallel to the Wardhá boundary, and extending from the west of Kátol to the south and east of Umrer. Small teak is scattered through the first tract mixed with bamboos on the extreme north, but in no well-defined belts. Satinwood, often nearly pure, is found on the sandy levels. The second tract contains small but good teak in its central blocks from Kátol to the railway, but poor mixed forests to the north, and chiefly scrub to the south in the Umrer tahsil. Owing to the large local demand the forests yield a substantial revenue. This amounted in 1903-04 to Rs. 63,000, of which Rs. 10,000 were realised from sales of timber, Rs. 16,000 from firewood, and Rs. 26,000 from grazing.

Forests.

Deposits of manganese occur in several localities, principally in the Rámtek tahsil. A number of separate mining and prospecting leases have been granted, and a light tramway has been laid by one firm from Thársa station to Wáregaon and Mandrí, a distance of about 15 miles. The output of manganese for 1904 was 66,000 tons. Mines are being worked at Nausar, Kandrí, Satak, Lohidongrí, Wáregaon, Kaeburwáhi, Mandrí, Páli and other villages. A quarry of white sandstone is worked at Silewárá on the Kanbán river from which long thin slabs well suited for building are obtained.

Minerals.

**NAGPUR  
District,  
Its and  
Manufactures.**

The weaving of cotton cloths with silk borders is the staple hand industry, the principal centres being Nágpur and Umrer. Gold and silver thread obtained from Burhánpur are also woven into the borders. The silk is obtained from Bengal and from China through Bombay, spun into thin thread, and is made up into different thicknesses locally. Tusar silk cocoons are received from Chhattisgarh. A single cloth of the finest quality may cost as much as Rs. 150, but loin-cloths worth from Rs. 8 to Rs. 25 a pair, and women's cloths from Rs. 3 to Rs. 25 each, are most in demand. White loin-cloths with red borders are woven at Umrer, the thread being dyed with lac, and coloured cloths for women are made at Nágpur. Cheap cotton cloth is produced by Momins or Muhaminadan weavers at Kamptee and by Koshtis at Khápa. Coarse cloth is also woven by the village Mahárs, handspun thread being still used for the warp, on account of its superior strength, and is dyed and made up into carpets and mattresses at Saoner and Patansongí. Sawargaoon, Mowár, and Narkher also have dyeing industries. Nearly 13,000 persons were returned as supported by the silk industry, 30,000 by cotton handweaving, and 2,500 by dyeing in 1901. Brass-working is carried on in Nágpur and Kelod, and iron nut-cutters and penknives are made in Nágpur.

Nágpur has two cotton spinning and weaving mills, the Empress Mills, opened in 1877, and the Swadeshi Spinning and Weaving Company which started work in 1892. Their collective capital is 62 lakhs. Nágpur also contains 12 ginning and 11 pressing factories, Kamptee 3 and 2 respectively, and Saoner 3 and 2, while one or more are situated in several of the towns and larger villages of the cotton tract. The majority of these factories have been opened in the last five years. They contain altogether 673 gins and 18 cotton presses, and have a collective capital of 20 lakhs approximately. Nearly 11,000 persons were shown as supported by employment in factories in 1901 and the numbers must have increased considerably since then. The ginning and pressing factories, however, only work for four or five months in the year. The capitalists owning them are principally Márwári Baniás and Moráthá Bráhmans.

and in a smaller degree Mubainmadan Bohrá's, Pársís, and <sup>NAGPUR</sup> Europeans. <sup>DISTRICT.</sup>

Raw cotton and cotton-seed, linseed, *til*, and wheat <sup>Commerce.</sup> are the staple exports of agricultural produce. Oranges are largely exported, and an improved variety of wild plum (*Zizyphus jujaba*), which is obtained by grafting. The annual exports of oranges are estimated at a lakh of rupees. Betel-leaf is sent to northern India. Yarn and cotton cloth are sent all over India and to China, Japan and Burma by the Empress Mills, while the Swadeshi Mills find their best market in Chhattisgarh. Hand-woven silk-bordered cloths to the value of about 5 lakhs annually are exported from Nágpur and Umrer to Bombay, Berár, and Hyderabad, the principal demand for them being from Maráthá Bráhmans. Manganese ore is now a staple export. Many articles of produce are also received at Nágpur from other Districts and re-exported. Among these may be mentioned rice from Bhandára and Chhattisgarh, timber and bamboos from Chánda, Bhandára, and Seoni, and bamboo matting from Chánda. Cotton and grain are also received from the surrounding Districts which are off the line of railway. Sea salt from Bombay is commonly used, and a certain amount is also received from the salt hills of the Punjab. Mauritian sugar is imported, and sometimes mixed with the juice of sugar-cane to give it the appearance of Indian sugar, which is more expensive by one pound in the rupee. *Gur*, or unrefined sugar, comes from the United Provinces, and also from Bârsi and Sholapur. Rice is imported from Chhattisgarh and Bengal, and a certain amount of wheat from Chhindwára is consumed locally, as it is cheaper than Nágpur wheat. The finer kinds of English cloth come from Calcutta and the coarser ones from Bombay. Kerosene oil is bought in Bombay or Calcutta according as the rate is cheaper. The use of tea is rapidly increasing all over the District. Soda-water is largely consumed, about ten factories having been established in Nágpur. Woollen and iron goods come from England. A European firm practically monopolises the export trade in grain and shares the cotton trade with Máuwarí Bónís and Maráthá Bráhmans.

NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.

Lád Baniás export hand-woven cloth and Muhammadans and Mārwaris manage the timber trade. Bohris import and retail stationery and hardware, and Cutchī Muhammadans deal in groceries, cloth, salt, and kerosene oil. Kamptec has the largest weekly market, and the Sunday and Wednesday bazars at Nágpur are also important. The other leading markets, excluding those for cattle which have already been mentioned, are at Gaorí and Kelod for grain and timber, and Mowár for grain. A large fair is held at Rámtek in November at which general merchandise is sold, and small religious fairs take place at Ambhorá, Kudhári, Adása, and Dhápiará.

Railways and  
Roads.

The Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Bombay has a length of 27 miles in the District with three stations and its terminus at Nágpur. From here the Bengal-Nágpur Railway runs east to Calcutta, with 5 stations and 34 miles within the limits of the District. The most important trade routes are the roads leading north-west from Nágpur to Chhindwára and Kátol, the eastern road to Bhandára and through Káhi, and the north-eastern road to Secú through Kamptec. Next to these come the southern roads through Múl to Umrer, and to Chánda through Borí, Jám, and Warorá. There is some local traffic along the road to Amravti through Bazargaon. The District has 231 miles of metalled and 74 miles of unmetalled roads, and the annual expenditure on maintenance is Rs. 99,000. The Public Works department has charge of 253 miles of road and the District council of 52 miles. Avenues exist on 185 miles, Nágpur being better provided for in this respect than almost any other District in the Province. Considering its advanced state of development, the District is not very well supplied with railways, and there appears to be some scope for the construction of feeder lines to serve the more populous outlying tracts.

## Famine.

The Nágpur District is recorded to have suffered from failures of crops in 1819, 1825-26, and 1832-33. There was only slight distress in 1869. In 1896-97 the District was not severely affected, as the *jowár*, cotton, *til*, and wheat crops gave a fair outturn. Numbers of starving wanderers

from other Districts, however, flocked into 'Nágpur.' Relief measures lasted for a year, the highest number in receipt of assistance being 18,000 in May 1897, and the total expenditure was 5 lakhs. In 1899-1900 the monsoon failed completely and only a third of a normal harvest was obtained. Relief measures lasted from September 1899 to November 1900, 108,000 persons or 19 per cent. of the population being in receipt of assistance in August 1900. The total expenditure was 19.5 lakhs. The work done consisted principally of breaking up metal, but some tanks and wells were constructed, and the embankment of the reservoir at Ambajheri was raised.

The Deputy Commissioner has a staff of four Assistant or Extra-Assistant Commissioners. For administrative purposes the District is divided into four tahsils, each of which has a tahsildár and a naib-tahsildár. Forests are in charge of an officer of the Imperial service, and the Executive Engineer of the Nágpur division, including Nágpur and Wardhá Districts, is stationed at Nágpur.

District sub-divisions and staff.

The civil judicial staff consists of a District and five Subordinate Judges, two Munsiffs at Rámtek and Kátol, and one at each of the other tahsils, and a Small Cause Court Judge for Nágpur city. The Divisional and Sessions Judge of the Nágpur Division has jurisdiction in Nágpur District. Kamptee has a Cantonment Magistrate invested with the powers of a Small Cause Court Judge.

Civil and Criminal Justice.

Under the Maráthá administration the revenue was fixed annually. The Maráthás apparently retained as a standard the demand which they found existing when they received the District from the Gonds. This was called the *ain jamabandi*, and at the commencement of every year an amount varying partly with the character of the previous season, and partly with the financial necessities of the central Government, was fixed as the revenue demand. Increases of revenue were, however, expressed usually as percentages on the *ain jamabandi*. The local officers or *kamaishdars*, on receiving the announcement of the revenue assessed on their charge, called the *pátels* or headmen of villages together and distributed it over the individual villages

Land Revenue administration.



NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.

according to their capacity. The *patel* then distributed the revenue over the fields of the village, most of which had a fixed proportionate value which determined their share of the revenue. Neither headmen nor tenants had any proprietary rights, but they were not as a rule liable to ejection so long as they paid the revenue. Under the earlier Maráthá rulers the assessment was fairly equitable, but after the peace of Deogon the District was severely rackrented, and villages were let indiscriminately to the highest bidder, while no portion of the rental was left to the *patels*. At the commencement of the protectorate after the deposition of Appa Sáhib there were more than 400 villages for which no headmen could be found to accept a lease on the revenue demanded. The revenue was at once reduced by 20 per cent. Cultivation expanded during the management by the British and some increase was obtained, the assessment being made for periods of from 3 to 5 years. During the subsequent period of Maráthá government the British system was more or less adhered to, but there was some decline in the revenue due to lax administration. Many of the cultivating headmen were also superseded by court favourites, who were usually Maráthá Brahmins. The demand existing immediately prior to the first long-term settlement was 8·77 lakhs. The District was surveyed and settled in 1862-64, for a period of 30 years, the demand being raised to 8·78 lakhs. On this occasion proprietary rights were conferred on the village headmen. During the currency of the 30 years settlement, which was concluded a few years before the opening of the railway line to Bombay, the condition of the agricultural classes was extremely prosperous. The area occupied for cultivation increased by 12 per cent. and the prices of the staple food-grains by 140 per cent, while the rental received by the landowners rose by 20 per cent. On the expiry of this settlement, a fresh assessment was made between 1893 and 1896. The revenue demand was raised to 10·57 lakhs, or by 18 per cent. on that existing before revision, Rs. 75,000 of the revenue being assigned. The experience of a number of bad seasons following on the introduction of the new assessment, during which the revenue was collected without

difficuly, has sufficiently demonstrated its moderation. The average incidence of revenue per cultivated acre is R. 0.12-8 (highest R. 1-4-11, lowest R. 0-6-0), while that of the rental is R. 1-0-8 (highest R. 1-13-10, lowest R. 0-9-1). The new settlement is for a period varying from 18 to 20 years in different tracts. Collections on account of land revenue and total revenue have been, in thousands of rupees :—

NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.

	1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue ...	8,27	8,56	10,62	9,98
Total revenue ...	15,78	18,40	18,96	21,89

The management of local affairs outside municipal areas, is entrusted to a District council and four local boards, each having jurisdiction over one tahsil. The income of the District council for 1903-04 was Rs. 1,05,000, while the expenditure on civil works was Rs. 34,000, on education Rs. 27,000, and on medical relief Rs. 6,000. NAGPUR, RAMTEK, KHARA, KALMESHWAR, UMRER, MOWAR and SAONER are municipal towns.

Local Boards  
and Municipalities.

The police force consists of 1,006 officers and men with a special reserve of 45 under a District Superintendent, who is usually aided by an Assistant Superintendent. There are 2,130 village watchmen for 1,693 inhabited towns and villages. Nagpur has a Central jail with accommodation for 1,322 prisoners, including 90 females. The daily average number of prisoners in 1904 was 710. Printing and binding, wood-work including Burmese carving, cane-work, and cloth-weaving, are the principal industries carried on in the jail.

Police and  
Jails.

.. In respect of education the District stands third in the Provinces, nearly 5 per cent. of the population (0.2 males and 7 females) being able to read and write. The percentage of children under instruction to those of school-going age is 14. Statistics of the number of pupils are as follows :— 1880-81, 10,696; 1890-91, 12,394; 1900-01, 14,991; 1903-04, 14,141, including 1,135 girls. The educational institutions comprise two Arts Colleges, both at Nagpur, with 170 pupils, one of these, the Morris College, also containing Law classes

Education.

**NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.**

with 42 pupils, 5 high schools, 16 English middle schools, 17 vernacular middle schools, and 147 primary schools. The District also contains two training schools and 4 other special schools. The expenditure on education in 1903-04 was 1.74 lakhs, of which 1 lakh was provided from Provincial and local funds, and Rs. 30,000 from fees.

**Hospitals and  
Dispensaries.**

The District has 17 dispensaries, with accommodation for 201 in-patients. In 1904, 270,025 cases, of which 1,905 were those of indoor patients, were treated in them, and 6,560 operations were performed. The expenditure in 1904 was Rs. 40,000. Nagpur also contains a Lunatic Asylum with 142 inmates, a Leper Asylum with 30 inmates, and a veterinary dispensary.

**Vaccination.**

Vaccination is compulsory only in the municipal towns of Nagpur, Umrer and Rāmtek. The number of persons successfully vaccinated in 1903-04 was 33 per mille of the District population.

(R. H. Craddock, *Settlement Report*, 1899. A District Gazetteer is being compiled.)

**NAGPUR  
TAHSIL.**

**Nagpur Tahsil.**—The central tahsil of the Nagpur District, Central Provinces, lying between 20° 40' and 21° 23' N. and 76° 44' and 79° 10' E, with an area of 871 square miles. The population in 1901 was 226,117, and in 1801 was 294,202. The tahsil contains 4 towns, NAGPUR the headquarters of the tahsil, District and Province, population 127,734, KAMPTEE (38,588), KALMESHWAR (5,340) and SAONER (5,281), and 417 inhabited villages. The total density of population is 340 persons per square mile and the rural density 136. Excluding 42 square miles of Government forest, 80 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 578 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 2,76,000 and that for cesses Rs. 20,000. The tahsil comprises the fertile plains of Kalmeshwar and Nagpur, the plateau of Kaurās, a continuation of the Kātōl uplands, and the undulating Wunnā valley. Cotton and *jowār* are the principal crops grown throughout the tahsil, but there is a considerable area of wheat land in the Kalmeshwar and Nagpur plains.

**Ramtek Tahsil.**—The northern tahsil of the Nagpur District, Central Provinces, lying between  $21^{\circ} 5'$  and  $21^{\circ} 44'$  N. and  $78^{\circ} 55'$  and  $79^{\circ} 35'$  E., with an area of 1,129 square miles. The population in 1901 was 150,063, and in 1891 was 157,150. The tahsil contains two towns, RAMTEK, the tahsil headquarters, population 8,732, and KHAPA (7,615), and 451 inhabited villages. The density of population is 139 persons per square mile. Excluding 343 square miles of Government forest, 77 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 544 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 2,27,000 and that for cesses Rs. 23,000. The tahsil contains a belt of hill and jungle at the foot of the Satpura range to the north, and in the south lie two fertile plains growing wheat and cotton respectively, and divided by the Pench river. RAMTEK  
TAHSIL.

**Umrer Tahsil.**—The southern tahsil of the Nagpur District, Central Provinces, lying between  $20^{\circ} 35'$  and  $21^{\circ} 11'$  N. and  $78^{\circ} 56'$  and  $79^{\circ} 40'$  E., with an area of 1,040 square miles. The population in 1901 was 136,476, and in 1891 was 140,350. The tahsil has one town UMRER, the tahsil headquarters, population 15,943, and 157 inhabited villages. The density of population is 131 persons per square mile. Excluding 74 square miles of Government forest, 71 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 564 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 2,41,000 and that for cesses Rs. 22,000. The tahsil contains a large area of wheat-growing land broken by low ranges of isolated hills. It has a heavier rainfall than Nagpur and rice is grown towards the eastern border. UMRER  
TAHSIL.

**Katol Tahsil.**—The western tahsil of the Nagpur District, Central Provinces, situated between  $21^{\circ} 2'$  and  $21^{\circ} 31'$  N. and  $78^{\circ} 15'$  and  $78^{\circ} 59'$  E., with an area of 800 square miles. The population in 1901 was 162,588 and in 1891 was 157,100. The tahsil contains the towns of KATOL, the tahsil headquarters, population 7,313, NARKHER (7,726), KELOD (5,141), MOHRA (5,336), and MOWAN (4,799), KATOL  
TAHSIL.

NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.

according to their capacity. The *pátel* then distributed the revenue over the fields of the village, most of which had a fixed proportionate value which determined their share of the revenue. Neither headmen nor tenants had any proprietary rights, but they were not as a rule liable to ejection so long as they paid the revenue. Under the earlier Maráthá rulers the assessment was fairly equitable, but after the peace of Deogaon the District was severely rackrented, and villages were let indiscriminately to the highest bidder, while no portion of the rental was left to the *pátels*. At the commencement of the protectorate after the deposition of Appa Sáhib there were more than 400 villages for which no headmen could be found to accept a lease on the revenue demanded. The revenue was at once reduced by 20 per cent. Cultivation expanded during the management by the British and some increase was obtained, the assessment being made for periods of from 3 to 5 years. During the subsequent period of Maráthá government the British system was more or less adhered to, but there was some decline in the revenue due to lax administration. Many of the cultivating headmen were also superseded by court favourites, who were usually Maráthá Bráhmans. The demand existing immediately prior to the first long-term settlement was 8·77 lakhs. The District was surveyed and settled in 1862-63, for a period of 30 years, the demand being raised to 8·78 lakhs. On this occasion proprietary rights were conferred on the village headmen. During the currency of the 30 years settlement, which was concluded a few years before the opening of the railway line to Bombay, the condition of the agricultural classes was extremely prosperous. The area occupied for cultivation increased by 12 per cent. and the prices of the staple food-grains by 140 per cent, while the rental received by the landowners rose by 20 per cent. On the expiry of this settlement, a fresh assessment was made between 1893 and 1896. The revenue demand was raised to 10·57 lakhs, or by 18 per cent. on that existing before revision, Rs. 75,000 of the revenue being resigned. The experience of a number of bad seasons following on the introduction of the new assessment, during which the revenue was collected without

difficently, has sufficiently demonstrated its moderation. The average incidence of revenue per cultivated acre is R. 0-12-8 (highest R. 1-4-11, lowest R. 0-6-0), while that of the rental is R. 1-0-5 (highest R. 1-13-10, lowest R. 0-9-1). The new settlement is for a period varying from 18 to 20 years in different tracts. Collections on account of land revenue and total revenue have been, in thousands of rupees :—

NAGPUR  
DISTRICT.

	1890-91.	1899-01.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue ...	8,27	8,56	10,02	9,08
Total revenue ...	15,78	18,40	18,06	21,39

The management of local affairs outside municipal areas, is entrusted to a District council and four local boards, each having jurisdiction over one tahsil. The income of the District council for 1903-04 was Rs. 1,05,000, while the expenditure on civil works was Rs. 34,000, on education Rs. 27,000, and on medical relief Rs. 6,000. NAGPUR, RAMTEK, KHAPPA, KALMESHWAR, UMREH, MOWAR and SAONER are municipal towns. Local Boards and Municipalities.

The police force consists of 1,006 officers and men with a special reserve of 45 under a District Superintendent, who is usually aided by an Assistant Superintendent. There are 2,130 village watchmen for 1,693 inhabited towns and villages. Nagpur has a Central jail with accommodation for 1,322 prisoners, including 90 females. The daily average number of prisoners in 1904 was 710. Printing and binding, wood-work including Burmese carving, cane-work, and cloth-weaving, are the principal industries carried on in the jail. Police and Jails.

In respect of education the District stands third in the Provinces, nearly 5 per cent. of the population (9.2 males and 7 females) being able to read and write. The percentage of children under instruction to those of school-going age is 14. Statistics of the number of pupils are as follows:—1880-81, 10,696; 1890-91, 12,394; 1900-01, 14,091; 1903-04, 14,141, including 1,135 girls. The educational institutions comprise two Arts Colleges, both at Nagpur, with 170 pupils, one of these, the Morris College, also containing Law classes. Education.

**NAGPUR DISTRICT.**

with 42 pupils, 5 high schools, 16 English middle schools, 17 vernacular middle schools, and 147 primary schools. The District also contains two training schools and 4 other special schools. The expenditure on education in 1903-04 was 1.74 lakhs, of which 1 lakh was provided from Provincial and local funds, and Rs. 30,000 from fees.

**Hospitals and Dispensaries.**

The District has 17 dispensaries, with accommodation for 201 in-patients. In 1904, 270,025 cases, of which 1,905 were those of indoor patients, were treated in them, and 6,560 operations were performed. The expenditure in 1904 was Rs. 40,000. Nagpur also contains a Lunatic Asylum with 142 inmates, a Leper Asylum with 30 inmates, and a veterinary dispensary.

**Vaccination.**

Vaccination is compulsory only in the municipal towns of Nagpur, Unner and Ramtek. The number of persons successfully vaccinated in 1903-04 was 33 per mille of the District population.

(R. H. Craddock, *Settlement Report*, 1899. A District Gazetteer is being compiled.)

**NAGPUR TAHSIL.**

**Nagpur Tahsil.**—The central tahsil of the Nagpur District, Central Provinces, lying between 20° 40' and 21° 23' N. and 78° 44' and 79° 19' E., with an area of 871 square miles. The population in 1901 was 296,117, and in 1891 was 294,262. The tahsil contains 4 towns, NAGPUR the headquarters of the tahsil, District and Province, population 127,734, KAMPTEE (38,588), KALMESHWAR (5,310) and SAONER (5,281), and 417 inhabited villages. The total density of population is 340 persons per square mile and the rural density 136. Excluding 42 square miles of Government forest, 80 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 578 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 2,76,000 and that for cesses Rs. 26,000. The tahsil comprises the fertile plains of Kalmeshwar and Nagpur, the plateau of Kaurás, a continuation of the Kátol uplands, and the undulating Wánná valley. Cotton and *jowár* are the principal crops grown throughout the tahsil, but there is a considerable area of wheat land in the Kalmeshwar and Nagpur plains.

**Ramtek Tahsil.**—The northern tahsil of the Nágpur District, Central Provinces, lying between  $21^{\circ} 5'$  and  $21^{\circ} 44'$  N. and  $78^{\circ} 55'$  and  $79^{\circ} 35'$  E., with an area of 1,129 square miles. The population in 1901 was 156,603, and in 1891 was 157,150. The tahsil contains two towns, RAMTEK, the tahsil headquarters, population 8,732, and KHPARA (7,615), and 451 inhabited villages. The density of population is 139 persons per square mile. Excluding 343 square miles of Government forest, 77 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-01 was 544 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 2,27,000 and that for cesses Rs. 23,000. The tahsil contains a belt of hill and jungle at the foot of the Sâtpurâ range to the north, and in the south lie two fertile plains growing wheat and cotton respectively, and divided by the Pench river. RAMTEK TAHSIL.

**Umrer Tahsil.**—The southern tahsil of the Nágpur District, Central Provinces, lying between  $20^{\circ} 35'$  and  $21^{\circ} 11'$  N. and  $78^{\circ} 56'$  and  $79^{\circ} 40'$  E., with an area of 1,040 square miles. The population in 1901 was 136,476, and in 1891 was 149,350. The tahsil has one town UMRER, the tahsil headquarters, population 15,048, and 457 inhabited villages. The density of population is 131 persons per square mile. Excluding 74 square miles of Government forest, 71 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 554 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 2,41,000 and that for cesses Rs. 22,000. The tahsil contains a large area of wheat-growing land broken by low ranges of isolated hills. It has a heavier rainfall than Nágpur and rice is grown towards the eastern border. UMRER TAHSIL.

**Katol Tahsil.**—The western tahsil of the Nágpur District, Central Provinces, situated between  $21^{\circ} 2'$  and  $21^{\circ} 31'$  N. and  $78^{\circ} 15'$  and  $78^{\circ} 59'$  E., with an area of 800 square miles. The population in 1901 was 162,588 and in 1891 was 157,100. The tahsil contains the towns of KATOL, the tahsil headquarters, population 7,313, NARKHER (7,726), KILOD (5,141), MOHPA (5,330), and MOWAR (4,709), KATOL TAHSIL.



and 356 inhabited villages. The density of population is 200 persons per square mile. Excluding 56 square miles of Government forest, 77 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 540 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 2,57,000 and that for cesses Rs. 22,000. The tahsil contains tracts of very fertile land in the valleys of the Wardhá and Jám rivers, and some hilly and stony country to the south. It is one of the great cotton-growing areas of the Province.

#### KALMESHWAR

**Kalmeshwar.**—A town in the Nágpur tahsil and District, Central Provinces, situated in 21° 14' N. and 78° 56' E., 13 miles west of Nágpur by road. Kalmeshwar is supposed to have been founded by nomad Ahirs or herdsmen, and the name to be derived from that of their god Kalma. Population (1901) 5,340. The town stands on black soil, lying low, with bad natural drainage. On a small eminence in its centre is an old fortress said to have been built by a Hindu family from Delhi in the time of Bakht Buland. Kalmeshwar was constituted a municipality in 1867 and the average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 4,400. In 1903-04 the receipts were Rs. 5,000, and were mainly derived from a house tax and market dues. A weekly cattle market is held here and there is some trade in grain and oilseeds. Cotton cloth is woven by hand. Kalmeshwar has an English middle school.

#### KAMPTÉE.

**Kamptee** (*Kámpṭi*).—A cantonment in the Nágpur District of the Central Provinces, situated in 21° 13' N. and 79° 12' E., on the Bengal-Nágpur Railway, 10 miles from Nágpur and 520 from Bombay. It stands on the right bank of the river Kanbán, and the cantonment extends in a long narrow line beside the river, with the native town to the south-east. The population in the last four years of census was as follows: 1872, 48,831; 1881, 50,087; 1891, 43,150; 1901, 38,888. The population in 1901 included 26,879 Hindus, 9,852 Muhammadans, and 1,851 Christians, of whom 1,036 were Europeans and Eurasians. Kamptee is the fourth town in the Province in respect of population. The ordinary garrison consists

of a battalion of British infantry, one of native infantry, and a field battery. Kamptee was until recently the headquarters of the General Officer Commanding Nagpur District, but this appointment has now (1905) been abolished and the Kamptee garrison is at present commanded from Ahmadnagar. The cantonment was established in 1821 and was made the headquarters of the subsidiary force maintained by the British under treaty with the Nagpur kingdom. The whole town is included in the cantonment. The average receipts and expenditure of the cantonment fund for the last decade were 1·1 lakhs. In 1903-04 the receipts were Rs. 1,00,000 and the charges Rs. 1,18,000. During Marāṭhā rule traders flocked to Kamptee on account of the comparative immunity from taxation which they enjoyed within the cantonment, and a large commercial town thus grew up alongside it. Owing to its favourable situation on the roads leading to Nagpur from the Sātpurī plateau, Kamptee for a long period monopolised the trade from this area, and it is only within comparatively recent years that the advantages possessed by Nagpur, as the larger town and headquarters of the Province, have enabled it gradually to attract to itself the commercial business of Kamptee. To this transfer of trade are to be attributed the stationary or declining figures of population during the last thirty years, and the construction of the Sātpurī railway should tend to accelerate the process. The town contains three cotton-ginning and two pressing factories with a total capital of 2·1 lakhs, three of which were opened in 1891 and 1892 and the others since 1900. A number of Muḥammadan hand-weavers produce the cheaper kinds of cloth. Weekly cattle and timber markets are held and the town contains one printing press. The Cantonment Magistrate, who has also the powers of a Small Cases Court Judge, has jurisdiction over the cantonment. The educational institutions comprise a Government high school, one English middle, two vernacular middle, and 11 primary schools. The Convent of St. Joseph maintains a boarding and day school for ~~European~~ children, teaching in commerce up to the matriculation standard, orphanages for native children and a dispensary. Medical relief is afforded

to the civil population at the Cantonment General Hospital and a branch dispensary in the town.

**KATOL TOWN.** Katol Town.—The headquarters town of the Kátol tahsil, Nágpur District, Central Provinces, situated in  $21^{\circ} 17' \text{ N.}$  and  $78^{\circ} 36' \text{ E.}$ , on the Jám river, 36 miles west of Nágpur by road. Population (1901) 7,313. The suburb of Budhwára on the opposite side of the river has recently been included in its limits. Situated in the town are the ruins of an old fort, and a curious temple of very early date built entirely of layers of sandstone with many grotesque carvings. Kátol is not a municipality, but a town fund is raised for sanitary purposes. The town is one of the important cotton markets of the Province, and contains four ginning factories with 100 gins and 3 cotton presses, these factories having a total capital of about 5 lakhs. The mangoes grown locally have some reputation. Kátol has an English middle school and a dispensary.

**KELOD.**

Kelod.—A town in the Kátol tahsil, Nágpur District, Central Provinces, situated in  $21^{\circ} 27' \text{ N.}$  and  $78^{\circ} 53' \text{ E.}$ , 28 miles from Nágpur on the Chhindwára road. The name is probably an abbreviation from *kelfhar*, a plantain tree, as numbers of plantain groves were formerly planted here. Population (1901) 5,141. The town contains an old fort. Kelod is not a municipality, but a town fund is raised for sanitary purposes. A cotton ginning factory has recently been opened. The chief local industry is the manufacture of large brass water-vessels. Kelod has a vernacular middle school.

**KHAPA.**

Khapa.—A town in the Rámtek tahsil, Nágpur District of the Central Provinces, situated in  $21^{\circ} 25' \text{ N.}$  and  $79^{\circ} 2' \text{ E.}$ , on the Kanhan river, 22 miles north of Nágpur, and 6 miles from the Chhindwára road. Population (1901) 7,615. The town is built on a site high above the river and immediately overhanging it, while on the land side it is completely shut in by fine groves. Khápa was constituted a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 6,500. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 9,000, octroi being the principal head of receipt. Thirty years ago, Khápa was described as one of

- the most flourishing towns in the Nágpur District, and its KHAPA. decrease in population is to be attributed to changes in the course of trade. Hand cotton-weaving, the principal local industry, was then thriving, but is now declining in prosperity owing to the competition of the mills. Khápa is not favourably situated for the location of ginning and pressing factories, and is therefore being supplanted by its younger rivals in the centre of the cotton area. Cotton cloths in various colours for women are principally woven. Two weekly markets are held here, and the town contains a vernacular middle and girls' schools, and a dispensary.

**Mohpa.**—A town in the Kátol tahsil, Nágpur District, MONRA. Central Provinces, situated in  $21^{\circ} 10' \text{ N.}$  and  $75^{\circ} 50' \text{ E.}$ , 21 miles north-west of Nágpur by road. Population (1901) 5,330. Mohpi is not a municipality, but a town fund is raised for sanitary purposes. A cotton ginning factory with a capital of about Rs. 35,000 has been opened, and another is under construction. The town is surrounded by vegetable gardens, from which country vegetables are sent to Nágpur. It has a vernacular middle school.

**Mowar.**—A town in the Kátol tahsil, Nágpur District, MOHAR. Central Provinces, situated in  $21^{\circ} 25' \text{ N.}$  and  $75^{\circ} 27' \text{ E.}$ , 55 miles north-west of Nágpur on the Wardhá river bordering Berár. Population (1901) 4,700. Mowár was created a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts during the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 3,600. In 1903-04 they were Rs. 4,000, the chief source of income being market-dues. It has a small dyeing industry, but with this exception the population is solely agricultural. The town is surrounded by groves and gardens on all sides except towards the river. A large weekly market is held here. Mowár has a vernacular middle school.

**Nagpur City.**—The headquarters of the Nágpur NAGPUR District, and of the Central Provinces, situated in  $21^{\circ} 0' \text{ N.}$  and  $79^{\circ} 7' \text{ E.}$ , on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, DESCRIPTION. 529 miles from Bombay, and on the Bengal-Nágpur Railway, 701 miles from Calcutta, the two lines meeting here. The city stands on a small stream called the Nág, from which

NAGPUR  
CITY.

it takes its name. Its site is somewhat low, sloping to the south-east, with an open plain beyond, while to the north and west rise small basaltic hills, on one of which is situated the fort of *SITABALDI*, on another the residence of the Chief Commissioner, and on a third the great reservoir which supplies the town with water. Nagpur is steadily increasing in importance, the population in the last four years of census having been: 1872, 84,441; 1881, 98,229; 1891, 117,014; 1901, 127,734. The population in 1901 included 104,453 Hindus, 17,368 Muhammadans, 436 Parsis, and 3,794 Christians, of whom 1,780 were Europeans and Eurasians. Nagpur was founded in the beginning of the 18th century by the Gond Rájá Bakht Buland. It subsequently became the headquarters of the Bhonsla kingdom, and in 1861 of the Central Provinces Administration. The battles of *Sitábaldí* and Nagpur were fought here in 1517. Two small riots have occurred in recent years, one in 1896 at the commencement of the famine, and one in 1899 on the enforcement of plague measures, but both were immediately suppressed without loss of life. Nagpur itself possesses no archaeological remains of interest, but some sculptures and inscribed slabs have been collected from various parts of the Province in the Museum. The city is also singularly bare of notable buildings, and since the Bhonsla palace was burnt down in 1864, there is nothing deserving of mention. The residence of the present representative of the family is situated in the *Sakardarí Bāgh*, about a mile from the city, where a small menagerie is maintained. But the two fine reservoirs of *Ambájeri* and *Telinkheri* to the west of the city, the *Jumá talao* (tank) between the city and the railway station, and the *Maharājibāgh* and the *Telinkheri* gardens form worthy monuments of the best period of Bhonsla rule and have been greatly improved under British administration. The *Maharājibāgh* also contains a menagerie. The hill and fort of *Sitábaldí* form a small cantonment at which a detachment of infantry from the Kamptee garrison is stationed. Nagpur is the headquarters of two Volunteer Battalions, whose combined strength in the station itself is five companies.

Nágpur was constituted a municipality in 1864, and the average municipal receipts and expenditure for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 3,28,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 4,68,000, including octroi Rs. 2,31,000, water rate Rs. 34,000 and conservancy Rs. 26,000; and the expenditure was Rs. 4,51,000, the chief items being refunds Rs. 68,000, water supply Rs. 91,000, conservancy Rs. 65,000, upkeep of roads Rs. 15,000, drainage Rs. 14,000, and repayment of loans Rs. 22,000. The water supply is obtained from the Ambájeri reservoir, distant four miles from the town; the works were first constructed in 1873, the embankment of the old tank being raised 17 feet, and pipes laid to carry water to the city by means of gravitation at a cost of 4 lakhs. In 1890 an extension was carried out at a cost of 3 lakhs to serve the higher parts of the city and civil station which could not previously be supplied through want of sufficient head. The embankment was again raised by famine labour in 1900, and its present length is 1,033 yards, the greatest height being 35 feet. The catchment area of the tank is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, and the water surface 412 acres. In order to prevent the waterlogging of the site of the city, which is liable to be a result of the constant intake from an extraneous source of supply, a scheme for a surface drainage system has now been undertaken. In addition to the drainage scheme a sewage farm is proposed, and the cost of the whole project is estimated at about 10 lakhs. A concession has recently (1903) been granted by the Municipal Committee for the construction of a system of electric tramway lines along the principal roads.

Nágpur is the leading industrial and commercial town of the centre of India, its trade being principally with Bombay. The Empress Mills, in which Mr. J. N. Táta was the principal share-holder, were opened in 1877, and contain 1,400 looms and 67,000 spindles, their present capital being 47 lakhs. Their outturn of yarn and cloth for 1904 was valued at 61 lakhs, and they employ 4,300 operatives. The Swadeshi Spinning and Weaving Mills were opened in 1892 with a capital of 15 lakhs; they have 180 looms and 16,500 spindles,

**NAGPUR  
CITY.**

employ 1,100 operatives, and produced goods to the value of 14 lakhs in 1904. In addition to the mills twelve other cotton ginning and pressing factories containing 287 gins and eleven presses are now working, with a united capital of 16.47 lakhs. The city contains eleven printing presses with English, Hindi and Marathi type, and one English weekly and two native papers are published besides the Central Provinces Law reports. The principal hand industry is cotton-weaving, in which about 5,000 persons are engaged. They produce cotton cloths with silk borders and ornamented with gold and silver lace. Numbers of orange gardens have been planted in the vicinity of the town, and the fruit grown bears a very high reputation.

**Officials and  
public  
institutions.**

Nagpur is the headquarters of the Central Provinces Administration and of all the Provincial heads of departments, besides the Commissioner and Divisional Judge, Nagpur Division, a Deputy Postmaster-General, an Inspector of Schools, and Executive Engineers for Roads and Buildings and Irrigation. The Inspector-General of Agriculture for India, the Deputy Comptroller of Post Offices, Bombay Circle, and the Archdeacon of Nagpur also have their headquarters here. It contains one of the two Provincial Lunatic Asylums and one of the three Central jails. Numerous industries are carried on in the Central jail, among which may be mentioned printing and binding, wood-work, including Burmese carving, cane-work and cloth weaving. All the forms and registers used in the public offices of the Province, amounting to about 10 million sheets annually, are printed or lithographed in the Nagpur jail, which contains 30 presses of different sizes. The Agricultural department maintains a model farm which is devoted to agricultural experiment and research. The Victoria Technical Institute is now under construction as a memorial to the late Queen. When finished it will take over the Agricultural and Engineering classes in the schools, and also teach various handicrafts. Nagpur is the headquarters of a Roman Catholic diocese and has a Cathedral and Convent. There is also a Mission of the Scotch Free Church, of which the Reverend Mr. Hielop, whose ethnographical and other writings on the Central Provinces are well

known, was for long a member. The Morris and Hislop <sup>NAGPUR CITY</sup> Colleges prepare candidates for degrees in arts; they are aided, but not maintained, by Government, and contained 207 students in 1903-04. The Morris College also prepares candidates for degrees in Law, and 12 students are taking this course. The other educational institutions comprise three aided high schools, containing together 404 students, and besides middle school branches attached to the high schools, four English middle schools, of which two are for Muhammadan and Telugu boys, respectively, and 15 primary schools. The St. Francis de Sales' and Bishop's schools are for European boys, and the St. Joseph's Convent school for girls. They are attended by 520 children. The special institutions consist of male and female normal schools for teachers and the agricultural school. The two first train students to qualify for teaching in rural schools. They are entirely supported from Provincial revenues, and contain 59 male and 19 female students, both classes of whom receive stipends or scholarships. The agricultural school has 12 students; it is connected with the model farm and gives instruction regarding improved methods and implements of agriculture to subordinate Government officials and the sons of landowners. The medical institutions comprise the Mayo and Dufferin hospitals for males and females, with combined accommodation for 112 indoor patients, and 9 other dispensaries.

**Narkher.**—A town in the Katal taluk of Nagpur District, Central Provinces, situated in 21° 29' N. and 75° 32' E., 45 miles north-west of Nagpur by road through Kalamshwar and Sawargan. Population (1901) 7,726. Narkher is not a municipality, but a town fund is raised for sanitary purposes. The population is almost solely agricultural, and the lands surrounding the town are very rich, the revenue of Narkher village being the highest in the Nagpur District. A large weekly cattle market is held here, and the town contains a vernacular middle school.

**Ramtek Town.**—The headquarters town of the Ramtek taluk, Nagpur District, Central Provinces, situated in 21° 21' N. and 73° 20' E., 2½ miles north-east of Nagpur by <sup>RAMTEK TOWN.</sup>



**RAMTEK  
TOWN.**

road and 13 miles from Sálwa station. Population (1901) 8,734. The town lies round the foot of a detached hill forming the western extremity of the small Ambágarh range. As is shown by its name (the hill of Ráma or Vishnu) it is a sacred place of the Hindus. On the hill, standing about 500 feet above the town, are a number of temples, which, owing to their many coats of white-wash, can be seen gleaming in the sunshine from a long distance. The principal temple is that of Rám Chandra standing above the others in the inner citadel, which is protected by two lines of walls, both of recent origin, while a third line runs round the Ambála tank at the foot of the hill. The tank is lined throughout with stone revetments and steps; it is said to be very deep and fish abound in it. From the west end of the tank a long flight of steps leads up the hill, at the opposite end of which another flight descends to the town of Rámtek. About 27 tanks in all have been constructed round the town. Rámtek was constituted a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 8,100. In 1903-04 the receipts were Rs. 10,000 and were derived mainly from octroi. A large religious fair is held here in December and a smaller one in March. The December fair lasts for 15 days and a considerable amount of traffic in cloth and utensils takes place, dealers coming from Jubbulpore and Mandlā. A considerable area in the vicinity of the town is covered with betel-vine gardens. The variety called *kápári* is chiefly grown, and is much esteemed locally. The importance of the town is now increasing, owing to the manganese mines which are worked in the tract adjoining it. A weekly cattle market is held here. The educational institutions comprise an English middle, girls' and branch schools, and a dispensary has also been established.

**Sáon.**

**Sáon.**—A town in the Nágpur tahsil and District, Central Provinces, situated in 21° 28' N. and 78° 55' E., 23 miles north-west of Nágpur on the Chhindwára road. The town is built on both sides of the Kolár river, the people on the northern bank consisting of Maráthís, and those on the southern of Lodhís, Kírárs, and other immigrants from northern India. The present name is a corruption of the

old one of Saraswatpur or the city of Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom. Population (1901) 5,251. The town contains an old temple constructed of large blocks of stone without mortar, and the ruins of a fort ascribed to the Gaolis. Saoner was constituted a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 2,800. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 5,000 and was derived mainly from a house tax, market dues and rents of land. The town is an important cotton-mart and possesses three ginning factories containing 108 cotton gins, two of which are combined with cotton presses. The united capital of these factories is about 4½ lakhs, and two of them have been opened since 1900. The Saoner ginning factory was started in 1883 and was the first factory in the Nagpur District. A hand-dyeing industry is also carried on, in connection with which *el* (*Morinda citrifolia*) was formerly cultivated round the town. A few trees are still left. A large weekly cattle-market is held here, and Saoner contains an English middle school and branch schools. A dispensary is maintained by the Mission of the Scotch Free Church.

SAONER.

**Sitabaldi.**—A small hill and fort in Nagpur City, Central Provinces, situated in 21° 9' N. and 76° 7' E. It was the scene of an important action in 1817. War between the British and the Peshwá of Poona had begun on the 14th November, but Appa Sâhib, the Bhonsla Rájá of Nagpur, was nominally in alliance with the British and Mr. (afterwards Sir Richard) Jenkins was Resident at his court. On the 21st November, however, Appa Sâhib received in public darbar a golden standard sent by the Peshwá with the title of general-in-chief of the Maráthá armies. This was held to be a declaration of hostility, and the subsidiary force at Nagpur, consisting of the 20th and 24th Madras infantry, both very weak, 3 troops of Bengal cavalry and 4 six-pounder guns occupied Sitabaldi, a position consisting of two eminences joined by a narrow neck of ground about 300 yards in length, that to the north being smaller than the other. Here during the night of the 26th November and the following day they were attacked by the Nagpur troops consisting of 15,000 men, of whom a quarter were Arabs, with 36 guns. Numerous

SITABALDI.

**SITARABDI.** charges were repulsed, until at 9 A. M. on the 27th the explosion of an ammunition cart threw the defenders of the smaller hill into confusion, and it was carried by the enemy. The advantages afforded by the position to the British troops had now to a large extent been lost, the larger hill being within easy musket-range of the smaller. Officers and men were falling fast, and the enemy began to close in for a general assault on the position. At this critical moment the cavalry commander Captain Fitzgerald formed up his troops outside the Residency enclosure below the hill, where they had been waiting, charged the enemy's horse and captured a small battery. The dispirited infantry took heart on seeing this success, and the smaller hill was retaken by a combined effort. A second cavalry charge completed the discomfiture of the enemy, and by noon the battle was over. The British lost 367 killed and wounded. In a few days the Resident was reinforced by fresh troops, and demanded the disbandment of the Nágpur army. Appa Sáhí himself surrendered, but his troops prepared for resistance, and on the 16th December was fought the battle of Nágpur over the ground lying between the Nág river, the Sakardará tank and the Sonagon road. The Maráthí army was completely defeated and lost its whole camp with 40 elephants, 41 guns in battery, and 33 in a neighbouring depot. The result of this battle was the cession of all the Nágpur territories north of the Narbadá, and northern Berár.

**UMRER  
TOWN.**

**Umrer Town.**—The headquarters town of the Umrer tahsil, Nágpur District, Central Provinces, situated in 20° 52' N. and 79° 20' E., 29 miles south-east of Nágpur on the metalled road to Múl in Chánda. Population (1901) 15,943. Umrer is the 11th town in the Province in size. It contains a Maráthí fort and an old temple inside it with walls 17 feet thick, which is supposed to have been built by Rájá Kárn Sáh of Chánda in the sixteenth century. Umrer was created a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts during the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 17,400. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 21,000, and was principally derived from octroi. The staple industry of Umrer is the weaving of cotton cloths with silk borders

by hand. White loin-cloths with red borders are generally woven, the thread being dyed with lac. About 10,000 persons are dependent on the industry. Umrer possesses English middle, girls' and private Urdú schools, and a dispensary. A small weekly cattle-market is held here.

UMRER  
TOWNS.

**Chanda District.**—The southernmost District of the Central Provinces, belonging to the Nágpur Division, and situated between 18° 42' and 20° 52' N., and 78° 48' and 81° E., with an area of 10,156 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Nándgaon State and the Bhandára, Nágpur and Wardhá Districts; on the west and south-west by the Yeotmál District of Berár and the Nizám's dominions; and on the east by the Bastar and Kánker States and the Drug District. The shape of the District is an irregular triangle with its base to the north and tapering to the south, where the long narrow strip of the Sironchá tahsil runs down beside the Godávári river. The Wardhá, Pránhita, and Godávári rivers successively mark the western border, while to the north the Wunná divides Chánda from the Wardhá District for a short distance previous to its junction with the Wardhá river. The western portion, between the Wárdhá and Enai rivers, and a small strip along the north consist of undulating open country. East of this, to the Waingangá, the surface is generally broken either by isolated hills or small ranges, large areas are covered with forest, and the soil is generally sandy. The Waingangá flows from north to south through the centre of the District to its junction with the Wardhá at Seoní, when their combined streams become the Pránhita. The greater part of the country east of it is included in the zamíndári estates, and consists of an elevated plateau stretching from north to south along the entire length of the District, from which again rise numerous ranges of hills, while dense masses of forest extend over plateau and valleys alike. As already noted, three of the leading rivers of the Province, the Wardhá, Waingangá and Godávári, are included in the drainage system of Chánda, while the Seonáth, the largest feeder of the Mahánadí, rises in the north-eastern zamíndáris. Each of these streams has numerous tributaries, the most important of those joining the Waingangá being the Andhári, the Botewáhi, the

CHANDA  
DISTRICT.  
Boundaries,  
configuration,  
and hill and  
river systems.

CHANDA  
DISTRICT.

Deni, the Garhvi and the Kobraagarhi, which with the main river carry off the drainage of the central and eastern portion of the District. The chief affluents of the Wardhá are the Pengangá and Erni, while the Baudiá drains the south-eastern zamindáris and joins the Indrávati. West of the Waingangá the principal hills are the Chimur, Múl and Pherságarh ranges, and east of it those of Surjúgarh and Típágarh. The general height of the plain country is about 900 feet above the sea in the north of the District, falling to 658 feet at Chánda and 400 at Sironehá. Except in the open country on the west and north the whole District is thickly wooded.

**Geology.** East of the Waingangá gneissic rocks constitute the principal formation, granite, gneiss and quartz being the typical rocks. To the west of that river the District is mainly occupied by rocks of the upper Gondwána system, consisting of red clay and soft sandstone, covered by coarse loosely-compacted sandstone and shale. Animal remains have been found in three well defined seams of limestone. The Wardhá valley coal field occurs in this District and occupies a belt of 75 miles along the Wardhá river, and an area of about 1,000 square miles.

**Botany.** The forest vegetation in the District is of a mixed character. Teak (*Tectona grandis*) is fairly general, but is not anywhere very plentiful. The principal trees are *adi* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *bíjásál* (*Pterocarpus marsúpium*), *rohan* (*Soyimida febrifuga*), *kaddam* (*Stephegyne parvifolia*), *haldu* (*Adina cordifolia*), *semur* (*Bombax malabaricum*) *mahuá* (*Bassia latifolia*), *dhaurá* (*Alougeissus latifolia*); *lendá* (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), *garári* (*Cleistanthus collinus*), and *palás* (*Butea frondosa*). *Salai* (*Boswellia serrata*) is very abundant on the dry hills and plateaux; other trees met with are *behrá* or *blackwood* (*Chloroxylon Swietenia*), *renjhá* (*Acacia leucophloea*), *baherá* (*Terminalia belerica*), *siris* (*Albizia odoratissima*), *kaikrá* (*Garuga pinnata*), *moyen* (*Odina Wodier*), *ghant* or *mokhá* (*Schrebera swietenoides*), *pader* (*Stereospermum chelonoides*), *anján* (*Terminalia arjuna*), and *nirmáli* (*Strychnos potatorum*). Near villages tamarinds and mangoes abound, and in the south of the District groves of the palmym palm (*Borassus flabelliformis*) occur.

Almost all the wild animals belonging to the Central Provinces occur in the Chánda District, with the probable exception of the hunting leopard. Tigers and panthers are comparatively frequent and bears are common in parts. The bison occurs in suitable forests. The buffalo is only found in the Ahiri zamíndári and part of the Ghot *pargana*. *Sámbar* are fairly numerous in suitable forests, but spotted deer comparatively rare. The *bárásinghá* or swamp deer is found in Ahiri in small numbers, and the mouse deer in the same forests. Black buck are decreasing in numbers in the open country on the west. In the Ahiri range is found the large maroon squirrel. Wild pig are numerous, and large packs of wild dogs have been most destructive to the game. All the usual game birds are also found, and duck and snipe visit the District in considerable numbers in the cold season.

CHANDA  
DISTRICT.  
FAUNA.

The climate is slightly hotter than that of Nágpur, and the heat of the summer months is trying. On the whole, however, the climate is healthy, and for a rice District malaria is wonderfully rare. The autumn months are as usual the most unhealthy.

Climate and  
temperature.

The average annual rainfall is 51 inches at Chánda and 46 at Warorá. Failures of rainfall have been very infrequent.

Rainfall.

Bhándak, a village near Chánda, was possibly the capital of the old Hindu kingdom of Válsátaka, embracing the modern Province of Berár and the parts of the Central Provinces south of the Narbadá and east as far as the Waingangá. Inscriptions show that this kingdom existed from the fourth to the twelfth centuries, or until shortly after the rise into power of the Gond dynasty of Chánda. The Gonds probably became prominent between the eleventh and twelfth centuries on the ruins of the old Hindu kingdom. The names of nineteen kings are given as having reigned from the foundation of the dynasty to 1751. The Chánda kings are called the Ballár Sáhi ~~family~~ after Sarjá Ballár Sáh, the ninth prince, who may have lived in the beginning of the fifteenth century, and who assumed this title after proceeding to Delhi. The eleventh prince, Hír Sáh, built the Chánda citadel, and completed the city walls which had been founded by his predecessor. His grandson, Kárn Sáh, was probably the first of the line to adopt

History.

CHANDA  
DISTRICT.

the Hindu faith. The son of this Kārn Sāh is mentioned in the Ain-i-Akbarī as an independent prince, paying no tribute to Delhi, and having an army of 1,000 cavalry and 40,000 infantry. From the time of Akbar until the days of the Marāthās, the Chānda princes seem to have been tolerably independent and powerful, for both in their own annals and in those of the Deogarh line, we find them recorded as gaining an important victory over the latter rising Gond power in the middle of the seventeenth century. Probably it is to this period that may be referred the carvings of the Chānda device, a winged lion, which have lately been found on the walls of Gāwīlgarh, a famous hill-fortress on the southern brow of the Sātpurī range, which was for long the stronghold of Berār. The Gond kings of Chānda are shown by their architectural achievements, the seven miles of stone walls of Chānda, its fine gates, and its regal tombs, the stone embankment and remains of the palace on the Junonā tank, and other buildings, to have attained a comparatively advanced degree of civilisation. Their rule was peaceful and beneficent, they extended cultivation and irrigation, and under them the District attained a degree of prosperity which has perhaps not since been equalled. In 1761 the Gonds were ousted, and the District passed under the control of the Marāthās, forming from this period a portion of the Nāgpur kingdom. Chānda with Chhattīsgarh was allotted in succession to the younger brothers of Tōp of the Bhonsla Rājās, and under their wasteful and rapacious government the condition of the District greatly deteriorated. In 1817 occurred the rebellion of Appa Sāhib, and in support of his cause the zamīndār of Ahīrī garrisoned Chānda against the British, while an army despatched to Appa Sāhib's assistance by the Peshwā of Poona reached the Wardhā river ten miles west of Chānda. It was attacked and defeated by two British brigades at Pāndharkawādā in April 1818, and the British forces then proceeded to Chānda and, after a few days' siege, carried the town by assault, the regular garrison falling to a man in its defence.

From 1818 till 1830 the District was administered by British officers under Sir Richard Jenkins, and subsequently

made over to Raghuji III, the last Bhonsla Rájá. On his death without heirs it lapsed to the British Government in 1858. During the Mutiny the two petty zamíndárs of Monumpalli and Arpalli with Ghot rebelled, and raised a mixed force of Gonds and north-country Rohillas. Two telegraph officers encamped on the Pránhita were murdered. The disturbance was put down, and the rebel zamíndárs captured, largely by the aid of Lakshmi Bai, zamíndár of Ahiri. As a reward she received 67 villages of their forfeited territories, comprising the Ghot *pargana* which the zamíndár of Ahiri holds in ordinary proprietary right. The descendant of the old Gond ruling family still lives in Chánda and receives a small political pension, first granted by the Maráthás and continued by the British. In 1860 the British Government obtained by cession from the Nizám his possessions on the left bank of the Godávári consisting of six táluks, and these were formed into the Upper Godávári District of the Central Provinces. In 1874 the Upper Godávári District was abolished, and four táluks became the Sironchú tahsil of the Chanda District, while the remaining two were incorporated with the Madras Presidency. It has been decided to transfer three of these táluks to Madras.<sup>1</sup>

Chánda is rich in antiquarian remains, the most important Archaeology. of which are described in separate articles. Of the others but a bare list can be given. They include the cave temples at Bhándak and Winjbísani, Dewála and Ghúgus; the rock temple in the bed of the Wardhá below Ballálpur, which during the flood season is several fathoms under water; the ancient temples at MARKANDI, Nerí, Warhá, Armorí, Deotek, Bhatála, BHANDAK, Wairágarh, Wághnak, Keslúborí, and Ghorpetli; and the forts of Wairágarh, Ballálpur, Khatorá and Segzon.

The population of the District at the last three enumerations The people. has been as follows: 1891, 649,146; 1891, 697,610; 1901, 601,533. Between 1881 and 1891 the growth of population was 7½ per cent. During the last decade the population has decreased by nearly 14 per cent. The District had poor crops both in 1896 and in 1897, and was very severely affected by

<sup>1</sup>This transfer had been sanctioned and the arrangements for it were under consideration at the time of writing (1900).



CHANDA  
DISTRICT.

famine in 1900. The largest decreases were in the zamindaris of the Chanda and Bramhapuri tahsils, which lost by  $15\frac{1}{2}$  and  $21\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., respectively, while the decline in the Bramhapuri tahsil outside the zamindaris was 20 per cent. In the Sironcha tahsil the *jowar* crop did not fail in 1897, and the people gained by the high prices prevailing for produce. The District has two towns CHANDA and WARORA and 2,584 inhabited villages. The principal statistics of population, based on the census of 1901, are shown below :—

Tahsil.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Population	Population per square mile.	Per cent. age of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Chanda	1,171	1	310	121,040	103	- 6.6	3,046
Warora	1,242	1	106	131,647	105	- 6.9	3,810
Bramhapuri	87		319	115,010	124	-20.2	2,049
Sironcha	3,003		421	65,465	18	- 7.2	7-3
Garhchitrol	3,709		1,095	165,211	12	-25.3	2,023
District Total	10,156	2	2,584	581,315	57	-14.8	11,314

The transfer of the taluks of Nugur, Albaka and Cherkla of the Sironcha tahsil covering an area of 593 square miles and containing 142 villages with 20,218 persons to the Madras Presidency, which was under contemplation in 1906, has been allowed for in the statistics given above. In 1905 the Ahiri zamindari was transferred to the Sironcha tahsil, and a new tahsil was formed at Garhchitrol containing the zamindaris of the Bramhapuri tahsil and those of the Chanda tahsil except Ahiri, with a strip of non-zamindari area. The corrected District figures of area and population are 10,156 square miles and 581,315 persons. The statistics given in the remainder of this article are for the District as it stood before the transfer of territory with the exception of those of density and number of villages. The density of population per square mile is 57 persons, being the lowest in the Province. The open country is fairly well populated, but the large zamindari areas are for the most part covered with forest and contain very few inhabitants. About 77 per cent. of the population are Hindus and 21 per cent. Animists. Muhammadians

number more than 10,000, of whom about a quarter live in Chánda and Warorá. There is great diversity of language, as of caste, in Chánda, and 68 per cent. of the population speak Maráthí, more than 16 per cent. Gondí, 12 per cent. Telugu, and 5 per cent. the Chhattísgarhi dialect of Eastern Hindí. The Telugu population resides principally in the Sironchá tahsil, but numbers of persons belonging to Telugu castes are found in several large villages of the Chánda tahsil. The speakers of Chhattísgarhi belong chiefly to the Ambágarh-Chaukí zamíndári in the north-east corner of the District, which adjoins Nándgaon. The Maráthí speakers live all over the open country, while the forests east and south of the Waingangá are populated chiefly by Gonds.

Bráhmans number 5,000 persons and are the largest landholders. Kumbís (95,000) and Maráthás (1,500) together form 17 per cent. of the population. Kohlis number 7,000, but with the decay of sugarcane cultivation and the repeated failures of rice, they have fallen into poor circumstances. Other numerous castes are Ahírs or herdsmen (17,000), and Telís or oil-pressers (32,000), both of whom are now engaged principally in cultivation. Gonds (135,000) form 22½ per cent., or nearly a quarter of the whole population. The Mária Gonds are almost a separate race. They are generally tall and well built, in great contrast to the ordinary type of Gond. Their marriage is adult, and the consent of the girl is essential; sexual license before marriage is an ordinary custom, but after marriage husbands not infrequently murder their wives, if they discover that the latter have been unfaithful. In a District with so many rivers, Dhímars (31,000) or fishermen are naturally numerous and form about 5 per cent. of the population. They are generally in poor circumstances, as also are the impure menial caste of Meháras (74,000), who constitute 12 per cent. The whole of the Sironchá tahsil is held by a superior proprietor of the Velamá caste, who resides in Hyderabad. About 70 per cent. of the population were returned as dependent on agriculture in 1901.

Christians number 266, of whom 204 are natives. The Church of Scotland supports a Mission in Chánda with

CHANDA  
DISTRICT.Their castes  
and occupa-  
tions.Christian  
Missions.

## CHANDA DISTRICT.

four schools, while in Sironchú the American Methodist Mission, founded in 1803, has several schools principally for the depressed Dher boys.

## General agricultural conditions

Black soil is found in the tracts adjoining the Wardhá river, and in the *dodh* between the Wardhá and Erai comprising most of the Warorá tahsil, and north of Chimur. An alluvial belt of black soil mixed with sand also occurs on the banks of the Waingangá. Elsewhere the yellow soil formed from metamorphic rock is generally prevalent. Inferior sandy and stony soils cover a large area in the zamindáris. In Sironchú tahsil a good deal of alluvial black soil is found on the banks of the Godávári. Linseed, gram and wheat are grown principally in the black soil lands of the Chánda Haveli and those adjoining the Wardhá river, while *jowár* is the principal crop in Sironchú and the Warorá tahsil, and rice in the centre and east of the District.

## Chief agricultural statistics and crops.

An area of 4,851 square miles, amounting to 43 per cent of that of the District is included in the 20 zamindári estates, while 2,000 acres are held free of revenue and 8,000 have been sold outright under the Waste Land Rules. More than 300 square miles have been allotted for settlement on the ryotwári system, of which 55 square miles are cultivated and pay a revenue of Rs. 21,000. The principal statistics of cultivation in 1903-04 were as shown below, areas being in square miles :—

Tahsil	Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Culturable waste.	Forests.
Chánda	1,174	283	41	367	551
Warorá	1,282	516	25	366	346
Bramhapuri	697	202	56	300	443
Sironchú	3,095	86	6	279	450
Garhchiroli	3,708	426	51	1,104	819
Total	10,166	1,512	182	2,422	2,672

Considerable areas of land are at present under old and now fallows. Rice covers 855 square miles, *jowár* 849 square

<sup>1</sup> In the statistics of cultivation and culturable waste here given 2,014 square miles of waste land in the zamindári estates which have not been cadastrally surveyed are excluded from the total area of the District.

miles, linseed and ~~47~~ 95 square miles each, cotton 79 square CHANDA DISTRICT.  
miles, wheat 67 square miles and gram 31 square miles. In recent years the acreage of the wheat crop has fallen by a half, while that of *jowár* has increased by more than 50 per cent. *Jowár* is grown both as an autumn and spring crop, the latter predominating. Cotton is also grown both as an autumn and spring crop, the latter practice being followed in the rice country in the same manner as with *jowár*, the reason in both cases probably being to avoid the deleterious effect which is produced on the plants by a heavy rainfall. The spring cotton is said to have the stronger staple. *Til* has become a crop of some importance in recent years. Less than 1,000 acres are now under sugarcane; its cultivation has decreased with the unfavourable seasons, owing to the inability of the local product to compete in price with that from northern India. Bhándak and the adjoining village of Chichordí contain a number of betel-vine gardens, and the leaves produced are of good quality. In the zamindáris the Gonds still practice *dahid* or shifting cultivation. A plot of ground is covered with brushwood, four to six inches deep. This is fired just before the rains, and, when they break, rice is scattered broadcast among the ashes. In the second year a small millet is sown, and the land is then left fallow for ten years, as the available timber fuel near it has been exhausted, and its transport from a distance is extremely laborious. Rents are paid by the axe of land, which is roughly about an acre.

The area of the valuable cotton crop has nearly trebled Improvements  
in the last few years, while manure is now more largely in agricultural  
applied both to rice and cotton. In the decade ending 1904 practice.  
Rs. 92,000 were taken under the Land Improvement Loans Act, principally for the construction of irrigation tanks, and 5½ lakhs under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

As regards irrigation Chánda is second only to Bhándára Irrigation.  
in importance. In a normal year nearly 280 square miles,  
or 22 per cent. of the cropped area, are irrigated. In 1903-04  
the area was 180 square miles. About 7,000 acres of this  
consists of garden crops and sugarcane, and the remainder of  
rice. Irrigation is applied in the usual manner from tanks, both  
by percolation and by cutting an outlet in the embankment

CHANDA  
DISTRICT.

and carrying the water to the fields in mud channels. A very few of the largest tanks are provided with an inferior masonry outlet, but most of them have no sluices or permanent waste-weirs. The supply of water is dependent on a sufficient quantity of rainfall to fill the tanks, and in years of complete drought only a quarter of the ordinary area can be irrigated. There are nearly six thousand tanks in the District with an ordinary capacity of irrigating an average of 2½ acres each, and about 1,600 wells, which supply an acre and a half each. The best tanks are situated in the tract north of Mál on both sides of the Nágpur road. Profitable schemes for tanks to irrigate an additional 100,000 acres at a cost of about twenty lakhs have been prepared by the Irrigation department, in addition to a number of other protective projects. A scheme for a canal in the *dodh* between the Waingangá and Anilhári rivers has been suggested.

Cattle, ponies  
and sheep.

Cattle are bred all over the District in the forest tracts, the bulls being selected and kept for breeding. Those used for rice cultivation are small and usually white, while in the spring-crop country large bullocks, like those of Berár, and usually red and white or reddish brown in colour, are employed. There is a considerable difference in the price, and also in the working life of the two breeds, those used in the rice country being much cheaper, and owing to the severity of the work shorter lived than the others. Buffaloes are used for the carriage of the rice plants in transplantation, but they are not much in favour. Most of the *ghí* produced is from buffalo's milk. Goats and sheep are kept in large quantities in Chánda, the number of sheep being greater than in any other District of the Central Provinces except Raipur. They are kept by the professional shepherd castes of Dhangars and Kuramwárs, and the manure which they afford is valuable. In Sironehá there is a special breed of large straight-haired sheep, generally white and sometimes reddish brown in colour. They grow to three feet high at the shoulder, and give two to four pounds of milk<sup>per day</sup> which is used for the manufacture of *ghí*. The rams are used for fighting, and matches are arranged on festivals.

## Forests.

The Government forests of Chánda cover 2,672 square miles, or about 26 per cent. of the area of the District. In

addition to this the zamindári and málguzári forests cover CHANDA DISTRICT. 3,919 square miles. The forests are well distributed and very few villages are more than three miles from some part of them. The most important tracts are the Ahiri rango which supplies teak for export, and the Mohurí and Haveli ranges which supply the Warorá colliery with pit-props, fuel and charcoal. The ordinary species of trees found have already been described. The extensive bamboo forests west of the Waingangá seeded in 1900, but most of the seed was destroyed by an insect, so that there has been little reproduction. A considerable quantity of lac was formerly gathered, but it was recklessly taken for sale during the famine, leaving no wood for stock, and the supplies have consequently been depleted. The forest revenue for 1903-04 amounted to about 2 lakhs, of which Rs. 75,000 were realised from sales of timber and Rs. 55,000 from grazing fees.

A colliery has been worked by Government at Warorá in Minnala. the Wardhá valley coal-field since 1871, and the output of coal in 1901 was about 112,000 tons, which sold for 5.2 lakhs, the net earnings being nearly 2 lakhs. About 1,050 persons are employed in the colliery. The coal is sold to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, to municipalities for water works, and to cotton mills and ginning factories. The seams worked by this colliery are nearly exhausted. Another coal-field exists at Bandar about 30 miles north-east of Warorá, which contains three seams with a total thickness of 38 feet. Seams have also been found at Ballápur, six miles south of Chanda, at Dudholi, a village near it, and at Ghágu on the Wardhá river. Test borings have been made at Ballápur by Government, but owing to the proximity of the river much difficulty has been found in sinking the pits. A prospecting license has been granted for Dudholi. There are old copper mines at Thanwásana in the Ghátkul tract, at Govindpur near Talodhi, and at Mendhá near Rajoli. Iron ores of good quality occur, the best known localities being Dewalgaon, Guujowáhi, Lohára, Pípalgaon and Ratnapur. The ores at Lohára and Pípalgaon contain 69 and 71 per cent. of iron respectively. About 1,150 tons of iron were extracted in 1904 by primitive charcoal furnaces, but the industry is not prosperous. Diamond

CHANDA  
DISTRICT.

mines formerly existed on the Satti river, a tributary of the Kobrágarhí near Wairágarh, and gold dust is obtained by washing in the Waingangá and Indrávati rivers. Good building stone is found in several localities, and red, yellow and white clay at Chánda. Limestone brought from Berár is burned at Bhándak, and lime is also prepared at Ratnapur near Gadbori and Nawegaoon.

Arts and  
Manufactures.

The tasar silkworm is bred by Dhimárs in the forests of the Wairágarh and Sindowáhi ranges, and silk is woven by the caste of Koskatis at Chámursi and one or two other villages. It is principally used for turbans. Silk loin cloth and *cholis* or bodices for women are woven by a few houses of Patwís at Chánda with thread obtained from Bengal; they are usually red or yellow in colour. The weaving of silk-bordered cotton cloths is a considerable industry, and the products of Chánda were formerly exported over a large area. Chánda, Chímur and Arnoori are the principal centres, but there are a number of weavers in all the large villages in the north of the District. The cloths are sometimes embroidered with gold and silver thread. Ordinary coarse cotton cloth is woven by large numbers of Mahárs, from mill-spun thread. The better class of coloured cloths are woven with thread dyed in the mills, but thread is sometimes dyed black locally with imported indigo. The inferior cloths are dyed red and blue in the ordinary manner by Chápas and Rangáris, the principal centres being Chánda, Múl, Saoli, and Bramhapuri; but only the poorer classes wear cloths dyed by indigenous methods as they have a peculiar odour. Gold and silver ornaments of a special pattern are made at Chánda, specimens of which were sent to the Delhi Exhibition. They are made with a base of silver on which are fixed pieces of lacquered wood of different patterns, the surface being then covered with gold leaf. Brass and copper vessels are made at Chánda and Nori in the Bramhapuri tahsil, and also ornaments of a mixture of three parts of brass and one of zinc, which are worn by the poorer classes. Good lacquer work is turned out at Pomurná. Articles of bamboo wood are also lacquered at Chánda. Ornamental slippers are made at the same place; patterns being worked on them with silk thread.

Warora has a fire-clay brick and tile factory worked by Government in connection with the colliery, and two cotton presses and four ginning factories have been opened in the last few years.

The principal exports by rail are oilseeds, timber, hides and horns, cotton and pulses. Rice goes chiefly by cart to Berár, Hyderabad, and Wardhá. Small quantities of wheat are sometimes sent by road from the Bramhapuri tahsil to Nágpur. The oilseeds are linseed, *ses*, castor and mustard, while *cashu* oil is now an important product. Cotton has only come into prominence in the last few years. Large quantities of teak-wood are sent from Alápilla and from the northern zamindáris by road. Bamboos, gum, myrobolans, and lac are also exported from the forest near the railway. Gums and charcoal are sometimes taken from the northern zamindáris for sale in the Raipur District. *Súmar* horns are exported for the manufacture of knife-handlers. The flowers of the *cashu* are sent to Wardhá and Berár. Superior bricks and tiles are made in the Warora colliery, and are sold locally and also sent out of the District. Silk-bordered cloths are largely exported to Nágpur, Berár and Hyderabad. Leather shoes and ropes are sent to Berár. Salt, sugar, thread, cotton piece-goods, metals and kerosene oil are the principal imports. The salt used is sea salt from Bombay. Sugar comes principally from the Mauritius, and to a less extent from northern India. *Gr* or unrefined sugar is largely imported from Bangalore and northern India, the whole trade having sprung up within the last ten years.

The Wardhá-Warora branch of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway enters the north-western corner of the District with stations at Négri and Warora. An extension of the railway through Chánda to the coal-mines at Ballipat is now (1905) under construction. Nearly the whole external trade of the District is through Warora station. Warora is connected by metalled roads with Chánda and Chímur, and by an unmetalled one with Wán in Berár. The Nál and Simochá roads are the most important routes leading from Chánda to the interior of the District. In the rainy season some produce is carried by boat on the Wainrangá between Bhawliá and



CHANDA  
DISTRICT.

Armori, and during the famine grain was brought down to Garehirol. The length of metalled roads is 79 miles, and of unmetalled 398, and the annual expenditure on maintenance is Rs. 54,000. The Public Works department has charge of 298 miles of road and the District council of 179. Avenues exist on 58 miles. Considering its size the District is not well provided with roads.

## Famine.

Previous to the last decade there is little record of distress in Chanda. The District suffered in 1868-69, but not so severely as other parts of the Province, and little or no relief appears to have been given. From this date conditions were generally prosperous until 1891-92, from which year there were successive short crops until 1896-97, caused in three years by cloudy and rainy weather in the winter months, and in three years by premature cessation of the monsoon rainfall. The failure of 1896-97 was not in itself severe, as an average *outturn of half the normal was obtained from all crops, but* following on the previous lean years it caused some distress. Relief was principally given by granting loans for the construction and improvement of tanks. The mortality was never excessive. In 1899-1900 a complete failure of crops occurred and severe famine prevailed, aggravated by epidemics of cholera and dysentery arising from the scarcity of water, and 32 per cent. of the population were at one time on relief. Several road works were undertaken, 54 new tanks constructed, and 238 repaired or improved. The total expenditure was 44 lakhs.

District sub-  
divisions and  
staff.

The Deputy Commissioner is aided by four Assistant or Extra-Assistant Commissioners. For administrative purposes the District is divided into five tahsils, each of which has a tahsildár and naib-tahsildár. Owing to the extent of its forests the District has two Forest Officers, both of the Imperial service.

Civil and Criminal  
Justice.

The civil judicial staff consists of a District and one Subordinate Judge and a Munsiff at each of the Chanda, Warora and Bramhapuri tahsils. The Divisional and Sessions Judge of the Nagpur Division has jurisdiction in Chanda. The crime and litigation of the District are of the ordinary type.

Land Revenue  
administration.

During the ten years previous to the commencement of the British management the collections of land revenue averaged 3.34 lakhs. The practice was to give short leases for a

period of 3 to 5 years, leaving the *pótel* or village headman from 13 to 15 per cent. of the assets. Various miscellaneous taxes and transit dues realised under the Maráthá administration were abolished when the District became British territory. The period of Maráthá administration from 1830 to 1854 was characterised by reckless misgovernment. Many of the old hereditary headmen were dispossessed and their villages made over to Bráhmaṇ officials on a reduced assessment, while in order to make up the loss of revenue every device was employed to extort increased sums from those who remained. In 1862-63 when the first regular settlement was begun the demand had fallen to 2·65 lakhs. The revision of assessment was concluded in 1869, the term fixed being 30, 20 and 13 years in different areas. The tract settled for 13 years consisted of certain villages in the Ghot *pargana*. The revised revenue was fixed at 2·64 lakhs, of which Rs. 22,000 were assigned, but this sum excludes Rs. 59,000 on account of zamindári estates, and the revenue of the Sironchá tahsíl which then constituted a separate district. The village headmen were made proprietors and all tenants received occupaney rights. The Amgaon, Rájgarh, Ghátkul and Wairágarh *parganas*, in which the revenue had only been fixed for 20 years, were summarily settled in 1886-88. On the expiry of the 30 years settlement, a fresh revision was undertaken in 1898, and is still (1905) in progress, its conclusion having been delayed by the famines. The collections of revenue have varied as shown below, in thousands of rupees :—

	1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	2,78	3,03	2,19	3,36
Total revenue	6,43	7,82	5,89	8,65

The management of local affairs outside municipal areas is entrusted to a District council and four local boards, each having jurisdiction over one tahsíl, while the funds raised for Sironchá are administered by the Deputy Commissioner.

CHANDA DISTRICT.

Local Boards and Municipalities.

## CHANDA DISTRICT.

The income of the District council for 1903-04 was Rs. 54,000, and the expenditure on civil works was Rs. 11,000, on education Rs. 21,000 and on medical relief Rs. 5,000. CHANDA and WAKORA are municipal towns.

## Police and Jails

The District Superintendent of Police is usually aided by an Assistant, and has a force of 663 officers and men including 3 mounted constables, besides 1,880 village watchmen for 2,584 inhabited villages. Chánda has a District jail with accommodation for 148 prisoners including 13 females, and Sironchá a subsidiary jail accommodating 53 prisoners. The daily average number of prisoners in the Chánda jail in 1904 was 61, and in the Sironchá jail between 3 and 4.

## Education

In respect of education Chánda stands thirteenth in the Province, about 2 per cent. of the population (3.0 males and 1 females) being able to read and write. The percentage of children under instruction to those of school-going age is 8. Statistics of the number of pupils under instruction are as follows:—1880-81, 3,570; 1890-91, 5,495; 1900-01, 5,278; 1903-04, 6,898, including 265 females. The educational institutions comprise a high school at Chánda conducted by private individuals, 3 English middle schools, 4 vernacular middle schools and 11½ primary schools. There are four girls' schools in the District. Three schools for boys and one for girls are conducted by the Chánda Mission. The expenditure on education in 1903-04 was Rs. 42,000, of which Rs. 38,000 were provided from Provincial and local funds and Rs. 4,200 from fees.

## Hospitals and dispensaries

The District has 14 dispensaries, with accommodation for 53 in-patients. During 1904, 91,306 cases, of which 506 were those of in-patients, were treated in them, and 1,498 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 35,000, of which the greater part was provided from Provincial and local funds.

## Vaccination.

Vaccination is not compulsory in any part of the District, and only 32 per mille of the population were successfully vaccinated in 1903-04.

(Major Lucio Smith, *Settlement Report*, 1869. A District Gazetteer is being compiled.)

**Chanda Tahsil.**—The central tahsil of the Chánda District, Central Provinces. In 1901 its area was 5,058 square miles and population 195,385 persons. In 1905 the constitution of the tahsil was entirely altered, the large Ahiri zamíndári estate being transferred to the Sironchá tahsil, and the remaining zamíndári estates with a tract on the east of Chánda to the new Garhchiroli tahsil. The revised area of the Chánda tahsil is 1,174 square miles and its population 121,040 persons. The population of the area now constituting the tahsil was 132,477 persons in 1891. The density of population is 103 persons per square mile. The tahsil contains one town, CHANDA, the District and tahsil headquarters, population 17,803, and 319 inhabited villages. Excluding 554 square miles of Government forest, 59 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. With the exception of a small open black soil tract on the western border, the tahsil consists of rice country and is covered over a great part of its area with hill and forest. The land-revenue demand of the new tahsil was approximately Rs. 60,000 before the revision of settlement in progress in 1905.

**Warora Tahsil.**—The 'north-western tahsil of the Chánda District, Central Provinces, lying between 19° 59' and 20° 44' N. and 78° 45' and 79° 37' E., with an area of 1,282 square miles. The population in 1901 was 134,547, and in 1891 was 144,680. The tahsil contains one town, WARORA, the tahsil headquarters, population 10,626, and 408 inhabited villages. The density of population per square mile is 105 persons. Excluding 348 square miles of Government forest, 71 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 515 square miles. The land-revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 1,14,000 and that for cereals Rs. 13,000. The greater part of the tahsil is an open black soil tract in the valley of the Wardhá river, bearing spring crops, and thus differing considerably from the rest of Chánda which is mainly a rice District, and resembling rather the adjoining District of Wardhá.

**Bramhapuri (Brahmapur).**—The northern tahsil of the Chánda District, Central Provinces. In 1901 its area was

**BRAMHAPURI.** 3,324 square miles and population 220,453 persons. In 1905 a new tahsil was constituted at Garhehiroli to which 2,527 square miles, including 15 zamindari estates with a total area of over 2,000 square miles, were transferred from Bramhapuri; the Bramhapuri tahsil at the same time receiving a small accession of 100 square miles of territory from Chanda. The revised totals of area and population of Bramhapuri tahsil are 897 square miles and 115,049 persons. The population of the area now constituting the tahsil in 1891 was 144,157. The density of population is 128 persons per square mile, and the tahsil contains 340 inhabited villages. Its headquarters are at Bramhapuri, a village of 4,238 persons, 77 miles from Chanda by road. The tahsil contains 443 square miles of Government forest. The land-revenue demand in 1903-04 on the area now constituting the tahsil was approximately Rs. 82,000. Bramhapuri is almost wholly rice country and contains a number of fine irrigation tanks in the larger villages.

**SIRONCHA.**

**Sironcha.**—The southern tahsil of the Chanda District, Central Provinces. In 1901 its area was 1,085 square miles and its population 51,148 persons. The transfer of the taluks of Nagur, Albaka and Cherla of the Sironcha tahsil, covering an area of 593 square miles and containing 142 villages with 20,218 persons, to the Madras Presidency had been sanctioned, but further details of administration were being considered in 1906. In 1905 an area of 2,803 square miles of the Chanda tahsil, of which 2,600 were contained in the Ahiri zamindari estate, was transferred to Sironcha. The revised totals of area and population of the Sironcha tahsil are 3,095 square miles and 55,465 persons. The population of the area now constituting the tahsil in 1891 was 51,732 persons. The density of population is only 18 persons per square mile, and the tahsil contains 421 inhabited villages. Its headquarters are situated at Sironcha, a village containing 2,813 persons, 130 miles from Chanda by road. The area of Government forest in the new tahsil is 480 square miles, while 2,254 square miles of the Ahiri zamindari are covered by tree-forest, scrub-jungle or grass. The northern portion of the tahsil comprised in the Ahiri zamindari is one of the most densely wooded and sparsely

populated areas in the Province; to the south of this, **SIRONCHÁ**. Sironchá extends in a long narrow strip to the east of the Godávāri, and consists of a belt of rich alluvial soil along the banks of the river and its affluents, with forests and hills in the background. The population is wholly Telugu. The land-revenue demand of the tahsil was approximately Rs. 17,000 before the revision of settlement in progress in 1905.

**Garhchiroli.**—A tahsil of the Chánda District, Central **GARHCHI-ROLI** Provinces, constituted in 1905. It was formed by taking the zamindári estates of Bramhapuri, and those of Chánda, with the exception of Ahiri, together with 1,457 square miles of the *khatta* or land held in ordinary proprietary right from the east of the Chánda and Bramhapuri tahsils. The area of the tahsil is 3,708 square miles, and the population of this area was 155,214 in 1901, and 207,728 in 1891. The density of population is 42 persons per square mile. The tahsil contains 1,098 inhabited villages. Its headquarters are at Garhchiroli, a village of 2,077 persons, 51 miles from Chánda by road. The tahsil includes 19 zamindári estates, lying to the east and south of the Wain-gangá river, with an area of 2,251 square miles and a population of 82,221 persons. Most of this area is hilly and thickly forested, the area of forest in the zamindáris being 900 square miles. Outside the zamindári estates there are 849 square miles of Government forest. The land-revenue demand of the area constituting the tahsil was approximately Rs. 41,000 in 1903-04.

**Bhandak.**—A village in the Warorá tahsil of Chánda **BHANDAK** District, Central Provinces, situated in 20° 7' N. and 79° 7' E., 12 miles from Warorá station on the Chánda road. It has been suggested that Bhandak was the capital of the old Hindu kingdom of Váikátaka or Berár, but the names are not connected, and no inscriptions of the Váikátaka rulers have been found here. The numerous ruined temples and fragments of sculpture and squared stones show that it must at one time have been a great city. The most famous temple at present is that of Badarí Nág, or the snake temple, the object of worship being a *nág* or cobra, which is said to make its appearance on

## BHÁNDAK.

all public occasions. The temple itself is modern and has been reconstructed from older materials, many old sculptures being built into the walls. To the east of the village near the main road is a tank containing an island, which is connected with the mainland by an old Hindu bridge constructed of massive columns in two rows, with heavy beams laid along their tops to form a roadway. The bridge is 136 feet long and 7 feet broad. About a mile and a half to the south-west of Bhándak, in the hill of Bijásan, is a very curiously planned Buddhist cave. A long gallery is driven straight into the hill to a distance of 71 feet, and at the end of it is a shrine containing a colossal Buddha seated on a bench. Two galleries lead off at right angles to the first and each of these has also its shrine and statue. From traces of inscriptions on the walls the date of the original excavations may be inferred to have been as early as the second or third century A. D. In Gaorára, a mile and a half to the south of Bhándak, are the remains of several temples, and caves and niches hollowed out in the rock for the reception of statues. The principal temple is called Johnás's palace and the two chief caves are called his big and little fowl-houses.

CHANDA  
TOWN.

Chanda Town.—The headquarters town of the Chánda District, Central Provinces, situated in  $19^{\circ} 57' N.$  and  $78^{\circ} 58' E.$ , at an angle formed by the junction of the Erai and Jharpat rivers, and 28 miles from Warora, on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. Population (1901) 17,803. The name is a corruption of Chandrapur, the city of the moon. Chánda was the capital of a Gond dynasty, whose supremacy lasted from the twelfth to the eighteenth centuries. The appearance of the city from without is most picturesque. Dense forest stretches to the north and east. On the south rise the blue ranges of Mánikdrug, and westward opens a cultivated rolling country with distant hills. The town itself is surrounded by a continuous line of wall, crowned with battlements five and a half miles in circuit, with crenellated parapets and broad ramparts, traced in re-entering angles and semi-circular bastions. The thickness of the walls is 10 feet, and for the greater part of the circuit they are in a good state of preservation. They were built by the Gond king Hir Sáh, a contemporary of Akbar's.

and repaired by the Maráthás. They now form an efficient CHANDA TOWN. protection against the floods which are not infrequently caused by the Erai river, when driven back by the swollen current of the Wardhá at their junction. The walls are pierced by four gateways and five wickets. The most noticeable buildings in the town are some temples, and the tombs of the later Gond kings. The principal temples are those of Achaleshwara, Mahákáli and Murlídhara. They are generally plain with pyramidal roofs in steps, the only exception being the one of Achaleshwara, the walls of which are covered with a multitude of small sculptured panels. The tombs are plain substantial buildings, rather heavy in appearance. Outside the walls is the large Ramála tank, from which water is brought into the town in pipes constructed by the Gonds. Along the pipes at intervals are round towers or *hathnis*, at which the water can be drawn off and carried into small reservoirs. Outside the town to the south-east, and lying on the ground, is a collection of colossal figures of Hindu deities carved from the basalt rock and left lying *in situ*. The largest of them measures 26 x 18 x 3 feet. They are known as Rayappá's idols, and the story is that they were prepared by a wealthy Komati named Rayappá, who intended to build a gigantic temple to Siva, but died before he could complete it. The greater part of the space inside the walls is vacant, and some of it is sown with crops, though suburbs have grown up outside the walls.

Chánda was constituted a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 32,000. The income has largely expanded in recent years, and in 1903-04 amounted to Rs. 48,000, being chiefly derived from octroi. The trade of the town is now much less than it was, but Chánda is still the commercial centre of the District. It has also several hand-industries, among which may be mentioned cloth-weaving either of silk, or of cotton with silk borders, dyeing, the manufacture of ornamental slippers, gold and silver work of a peculiar pattern, bamboo-work, and carpentering. A large annual fair is held just outside the Achaleshwara gate in the month of April, the total attendance at which is estimated at 100,000 persons. Cattle, tobacco and



CHANDA  
TOWN.

garlic are the principal articles sold. Chánda possesses a high school, supported by private subscription, with 68 students, an English middle and various other schools, and two dispensaries. The Episcopal Church of Scotland has established a mission station here, and maintains three schools.

## MARKANDI.

Markandi.—A village containing 211 persons in the Garhchiroli tahsil, Chánda District, Central Provinces, situated in  $19^{\circ} 41' N.$  and  $79^{\circ} 50' E.$ , 56 miles south-east of Chánda by road. The village stands on a bluff overlooking the Waingangá, and is remarkable for an extremely picturesque group of temples. They are enclosed in a quadrangle 196 feet by 118, and there are about twenty of different sizes and in different stages of preservation. They are richly and elaborately sculptured, and are assigned to the period of the 10th and 11th centuries. The wall surrounding them is of a primitive type, and probably much older. The largest and most elaborate temple is that of Márkanda Rishi. There are also some curious square pillars sculptured with figures of soldiers and probably more ancient than the temples. A religious fair is held annually at Márkandí in February and March lasting for about a month. The great day of the fair is the Sivarátri festival, when the attendance amounts to about 10,000 persons.

WARORA  
TOWN.

Warora Town.—The headquarters town of the Warorá tahsil, Chánda District, Central Provinces, situated in  $20^{\circ} 14' N.$  and  $79^{\circ} 1' E.$ , two miles from the Wardhá river. It is the terminus of the Wardhá-Warorá branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, 45 miles from Wardhá and 517 from Bombay. An extension of the railway from Warorá to a point beyond Chánda has recently (1904) been begun. Population (1901) 10,626. Warorá was constituted a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts for the ten years ending 1901 were Rs 22,000. In 1903-04 the income had increased to Rs 32,000, being principally derived from octroi. Water is obtained from a large tank outside the town, and carried into it in pipes. Warorá is the station at which the bulk of the produce of the Chánda District, and much of that of the adjoining Yeotmál District of Berar reaches the railway. A Government colliery has been worked

here for the last 35 years. In 1903-04 the output was 117,000 tons of coal raised at a cost of Rs. 2-15-4 per ton. The earnings for the year amounted to 5·4 lakhs and the expenditure to 3·7 lakhs, giving a return of 11½ per cent. on the capital expenditure. The supply of coal is now almost exhausted. About 350 miners are employed. The coal is sold to the railway, and to the local mills and factories. In connection with the colliery a fire-clay brick and tile factory has been established, the output of which in 1904 was valued at Rs. 42,000. A ginning and pressing factory belonging to the Empress Mills, Nágpur, with 14 gins and one press was opened in 1903. It has a capital of about a lakh of rupees and dealt with cotton to the value of Rs. 55,000 in the first year of working. Another cotton press and three ginning factories have since been constructed. Warora possesses English middle and girls' schools and two dispensaries.

WARORA  
TOWNS.

**Bhandara District.**—A District in the Nágpur Division of the Central Provinces, lying between 20° 40' and 21° 47' N. and 79° 27' and 80° 40' E., in the eastern portion of the Nágpur plain, and separated from that of Chhattísgarh by the Sátpurá range on the north, and by a line of broken hill and forest country further south. Through a narrow gap of plain between the hills on the north and south pass the Bengal-Nágpur Railway and the Great eastern road. It is bounded on the north by the Bálághát and Sconi Districts; on the west by Nágpur; on the south by Chánda; and on the east by the Feudatory States of Chhindwád, Khairágarh and Nándgaon. The area of the District is 3,065 square miles. The surface is generally open and level, being broken only in a few places by isolated ranges of hills. The lowest and most northerly of these is the Ambágarh range, an outlier of the Sátpurá, which enters the District from the west, and trending in a north-easterly direction cuts off the valley of the Bávnthari river from the rest of the District. Soon after entering Bhandára the ridge is crowned by the fortress of Ambágarh. In the centre, running from the east of Bhandára town to the railway near Gondia, is the Gaikhurí range, a cluster of low peaks surrounded by irregular

BHANDARA  
DISTRICT.

Boundaries,  
configuration,  
and hill and  
river systems.

BHANDARA  
DISTRICT.

forest country. The points of Lendejhari (1,400 feet) and Jámri (1,712 feet) are the highest. Just west of Bhandára the Balláhi range, consisting of a few sandstone hills capped with granite, and overhanging the eastward road, forms a prominent feature in the landscape. Lastly, in the south-east lie the Nawegaon or Partábgarh hills, the highest part of the District. Among them, under a seven-peaked mass, locally known as the hill of the seven sisters, is the Nawegaon lake, and on an outlying bluff of this cluster stood the old fortress of Partábgarh (1,842 feet). The peak of Nisháni is 2,314 feet high. In the extreme south-west near Pauní there is an isolated clump of hills, and in the north-east the Sátpurá range takes in the corner of the District formed by the Sálekasá and Darekasá zamíndáris. The main river is the Waingangá and practically all the others are its tributaries. The Waingangá enters Bhandára on the north-east, and flows diagonally across until it passes within a mile of Bhandára town on the south-west, its valley lying between the Ambágarh and Gaikhuri ranges. After this it flows to the south, forming for a short distance the boundary between Bhandára and Nágpur, and then turning south-east again cuts off the small and fertile strip of Pauní from the rest of the District. Its width in the District is generally 500 yards, but opposite Pauní it broadens to half a mile. During the open season it consists only of a small and sluggish stream everywhere fordable, and containing at intervals deep pools full of fine fish. The principal affluent of the Waingangá is the Bágh, which rises in the Chiebgarh zamíndári, south-east of the Partábgarh range, and flows almost due north for a course of 70 miles forming for some distance the boundary between Bhandára and Bálághát. It joins the Waingangá near Bení, being crossed by the new Sátpurá railway just before its junction. Another tributary on the left bank is the Chálband, which rises in the Gaikhuri range and flows south, crossing the Great eastern road at Saongí, where it is spanned by a large bridge. The Pángoli rises near Tamsar, and joins the Bágh near Kámtak on the border of the District. On the right bank the tributaries are the Chaudan, which flows past Wáraseeni and Rámpali

and meets the Waingangá near Saonrí, the Báwanthari flowing down from the Seoní District and joining it at Mowár, and the Súr coming east from Nágpur to a junction not far from Bhandára town. The valleys of the Waingangá and Bágh have been called the lake region of Nágpur, from the number of large artificial tanks which have been built for irrigation and form a distinctive feature of the country. The most important are those of Nawegaon, with an area of 5 square miles, and Seoní with a circumference of more than 7 miles, while smaller tanks are counted by thousands. These large tanks have been constructed by members of the Kohlí caste, and, though built without technical engineering knowledge, form an enduring monument to the natural ability and industry of these enterprising cultivators. The larger tanks are irregular lakes, their banks formed by rugged hills, covered with low forest that fringes the waters; while dykes connecting the projecting spurs from the hills are thrown athwart the hollows. The Sákoli tahsíl, or southern portion of the District consists largely of hill and forest. Elsewhere the country is for the most part open and closely cultivated, and the expanses of rice and wheat-fields thickly studded with fruit-bearing trees and broken by low flat-topped hills present a pleasant and prosperous appearance.

The main formation in the valley of the Waingangá Geology. consists of basalt and other igneous rocks, while in the eastern and southern part of the District it changes to metamorphic sandstone. Beds of laterite are common in all parts. In the isolated ridges and hills round Bhandára a close-grained sandstone is found which makes a good building stone.

The forests generally cover and surround the hill ranges, Botany. but beyond the Partábgarh range a broad belt of jungle extends from Oyára and Amgaon in the north, round the eastern and southern border of the District to the Chúlband. Teak is found on the higher hills, and bamboos are abundant. The other leading timber trees are *sáj* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *lendia* (*Iagerstræmia parviflora*) and *bjásál* or *benlá* (*Pterocarpus marsupium*). Much of the zamindári forest consists of *salai* (*Boswellia serrata*), a tree of

BHANDARA  
DISTRICT.

very little value. *Mahua* (*Bassia latifolia*) is abundant in the open country and the usual fruit-bearing and sacred trees surround the villages. The grasses called *kusal* and *ghonár* are principally used for thatching, and *musyál* for fodder. *Káns* (*Saccharum spontaneum*) sometimes invades the wheat fields.

## Fauna.

Bison occur in the Gaikharí and Partábgarh ranges and instances have been known of wild buffalo entering the District from the south. Tiger and panther are found in most of the forests. Snipe and duck are fairly plentiful, and large fish are obtained in the deeper reaches of the Waingangá and in Nawegaon tank.

Climate and  
temperature.

The climate is slightly cooler than that of Nágpur, and the highest temperature in the hot weather months is usually not more than 112°. The nights, if the sky is clear, are nearly always cool. In winter the nights are cold, though it never actually freezes. Malarial fever is prevalent from August to the end of the year, especially in the south and east. Severe epidemics of cholera usually follow years of scanty rainfall.

## Rainfall.

The average annual rainfall is 55 inches; the Tirorá tahsil, situated in the open country to the north, gets a smaller rainfall than Bhandára and suffers most in years of drought.

## History

Nothing is known of the early history of the District except for a vague tradition that at one period it was held by Gaoli kings. In the seventeenth century the open country in the north was included in the territories of the Deogarh Gond dynasty, and the fort at Ambágarh seems to have been built by the Patnáu governor who held the Dongartál estate in Seoni under the Gond Rájá Bakht Buland. The eastern and southern portions of the District were at this time covered with continuous forest, but the fact that some of the zamíndárs formerly held deeds granted by the Garhá-Mandlá dynasty shows that these territories were nominally under their jurisdiction, while the present zamíndár of Cháshgarh holds a patent from the Chánda kings. In 1743 Bhandára, with the rest of the Deogarh territories, became part of the Nágpur Maráthá kingdom, but was at first governed by *kamaishdárs* or subordinate revenue officials who were controlled

from Nágpur, and whose charges, ten in number, were assigned as appanages to different officers of the court. The present town of Bhandára was constituted the District headquarters in 1820, when a European officer was appointed as Superintendent under the temporary administration by Sir Richard Jenkins. Soon after the Maráthá secession, a Kunbí *pátel*, who had rendered some services to Chimnájí Bhonsla on his expedition to Cuttack, received as a reward a grant of authority over the eastern part of the District with instructions to clear the forest and bring it under cultivation. This grant led to the rise of the zamíndári family of Kámtha, which by 1818 had extended their jurisdiction over a thousand square miles of territory comprising about fourteen of what are now the zamíndári estates of Bhandára and Bálághát, the ancestors of the present zamíndárs having held their estates in subordination to the Kámtha house. In 1818 Chimnájí Pátel, then zamíndár, rose in support of Appa Sáhib, took the Maráthá governor of Lánjí prisoner, and garrisoned a number of the existing forts with his retainers. A small expedition was despatched against him from Nágpur under Captain Gordon, which, after a successful engagement with four hundred of the zamíndár's levies at the village of Nowargao, stormed Kámtha and took Chimnájí Pátel prisoner. The Kámtha territories were made over to the Lodhí zamíndár of Warad, who had afforded assistance to the British and whose descendants still hold the zamíndári. Some years afterwards the zamíndári of Kírnápur, now in Bálághát, was conferred on the deposed Kámtha family. The subsequent history of Bhandára has been the same as that of the Nágpur kingdom, and on the death of Raghují III, the last Rájá, in 1853, it became British territory. During the Mutiny the peace of the District was undisturbed. In 1867 the Lánjí tract and several of the zamíndáris were taken from Bhandára to form part of the now Bálághát District.

An old cromlech and stone pillars are situated at Tillotá Khairí, and some remains of massive stone buildings at Padmápur near Amgaon. Old temples, most of them of the kind called *Hemádpantí*, built without mortar, are

**BHANDARA DISTRICT.**

to be found at Adyál, Chakahetí, Korambí, and Pinglai, a suburb of Bhandára. There are a number of forts, the principal being those of Ambágarh constructed by the Muhammadan governor of Seoní; Chandpur and Bhandára traditionally ascribed to the Gaolís; Sangarhí and Partábgarh built by the Gonds; and Pauní constructed by the Maráthás. The fort of Ambágarh was used as a prison by the Maráthás, and it is said that criminals were sent there to be poisoned by being compelled to drink the dark and stagnant water of the inner well of the fort. This fort and also that of Pauní were held against the British in Appa Sábib's rebellion of 1818 and were assaulted and carried by storm.

**The people.**

The population of the District at the last three enumerations was as follows: 1881, 683,779; 1891, 742,850; 1901, 663,062. Between 1881 and 1891 the increase was somewhat smaller than the Provincial average, partly owing to emigration to Nágpur and Berár. During the last decade, there was some emigration to Wardhá and Berár, and the District suffered from partial failures of crops in 1895 and 1896, being very severely affected by famine both in 1897 and 1900. The density of population per square mile is 167 persons. Under favourable circumstances the District could probably support with ease a density of more than two hundred. There are three towns, BHANDARA, PAUNI and TONSAN, and 1,635 inhabited villages. Villages in Bhandára are generally of a comparatively large size, the proportion with a population of 500 or more persons being the highest in the Province. The principal statistics of population in 1901 are shown below:—

Taluk.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Bhandára ...	1,088	3	507	201,163	187	-11.0	6,251
Tirorá ..	1,823	—	571	291,614	220	-12.0	6,266
Sákol ..	1,510	—	557	167,305	109	+ 0.6	4,398
District Total ...	3,985	3	1,635	663,062	167	-10.7	16,746

The statistics of language show that 77½ per cent. of the population speak Maráthí, and 13½ per cent. Hindi and Urdu; of the remainder 56,000 persons, or 79 per cent. of the total number of Gonds, speak Gondí. About 88 per cent of the population are Hindus, and 10 per cent. Animists. Muhammadans number nearly 13,000, of whom 3,000 live in towns. Until recently there were a considerable number of Muhammadan cotton cleaners, but with the introduction of mill-spun thread this industry has declined.

The principal castes of proprietors are Maráthá Bráhmans (8,000), who possess 340 out of 1,917 revenue villages. Ponwárs (68,000) with nearly 300, Kunbís (79,000) with about 200, Lodhís (18,000) with 166, and Kohlís (11,000) with 136. The Maráthá Bráhmans obtained their villages under the Bhonsla dynasty, when they were employed as revenue officials, and either assumed the management of villages or made them over to their relations. The three great cultivating castes are Ponwárs, Kunbís and Kohlís, the Ponwárs being traditionally skilful in growing rice, Kunbís with spring crops and Kohlís with sugarcane. The skill of the Ponwárs at irrigation is proverbial, and it is said of them that they can cause water to flow up a hill. The Kunbís are dull and heavy, with no thought beyond their wheat and bullocks. The Kohlís live chiefly in the Chandpur tract of Bhandára and the Sákoli taluás. They are not so prosperous as they formerly were, when Kohlí Pátels built the great tanks already mentioned. The Lodhís (18,000) are not important numerically, but they hold some fine estates, notably the zamíndári of Kámthá with an income of over a lakh of rupees. Gonds number 70,000 or about 10½ per cent. of the population, and Halbás 17,000. Several of the zamíndárs belong to each of these castes, the Gonds being generally seriously involved, and the Halbás somewhat less so, though they are not usually prosperous. The Gonds suffered severely in the famines. The menial weaving and labouring caste of Mehrań is represented by 118,000 persons, or nearly 18 per cent. of the population. About 72 per cent. of the whole population are shown as dependent on agriculture.



**BLANDARA  
DISTRICT.  
Christian  
Missions.**

Christians number 319 including 286 natives, of whom the majority belong to the United Free Church of Scotland Mission, which has been established in Blandara since 1882, and maintains a hospital, an orphanage, and schools for boys and girls. A branch of the American Pentecostal Baptist Mission has recently been opened in Gondia.

**General agri-  
cultural con-  
ditions.**

About 53 per cent. of the soil of the District is that called *morand* or black and nearly black soil mixed with limestone pebbles or sand. The best black soil or *kandhar* occupies 4½ per cent. and is alluvial, being found in the tracts bordering on the Wainganga, especially round Panuf, where the Wainganga takes a sudden turn, and the deposit of detritus has increased. Further east, yellow sandy soil, which gives a large return to irrigation, generally predominates and covers 31 per cent. of the whole cultivated area. The quantity of inferior land is therefore comparatively small.

**Chief agricul-  
tural statistics  
and crops.**

Of the total area, 1,470 square miles or 37 per cent. are comprised in the 28 zamindari estates to which, however, it has been held that the custom of primogeniture does not apply, while 95 square miles are held wholly or partially free of revenue by members of the Bhonsla family, and 3,000 acres have been sold outright under the Waste Land Rules. The balance is held on the ordinary tenures. The chief statistics of cultivation in 1903-04 were as follows, areas being in square miles:—

Tahsil.	Total.	Cultivat- ed	Irrigated.	Cultur- able waste.	Forests.
Bhandara ...	1,088	453	36	298	201
Tirora ...	1,328	657	40	476	88
Sakoli ...	1,540	356	53	740	210
Total ...	3,956	1,466	129	1,522	532

A large quantity of waste land still therefore remains, and as very little inferior soil has been brought under the plough, it would appear that there must be considerable scope for extension of cultivation. Rice occupies 628 square miles, *jowar* 158, wheat 133, gram 70, linseed 110, and pulses 254.

In recent years wheat has to some extent been supplanted by *jowár*, and while the area under rice has considerably fallen off, this has only to a small extent been counterbalanced by an increase in *kodon*. About four-fifths of all the rice grown is transplanted and the balance is broadcast. Wheat is grown principally in the Panní, Tuinsar and Rámpaillí tracts and small embankments are often constructed for wheat fields, especially when rice is grown as a rotation crop with wheat. *Jowár* is frequently sown as a spring crop in Bhandára, as the rains are frequently too heavy to allow it to succeed as an autumn crop. Linseed, gram and the pulso *tindá* (*Lathyrus sativus*) are grown as second crops in rice fields. Sugarcane was formerly an important crop in Bhandára, but the area under it has decreased in recent years, and is now only about 1,500 acres or less than a third of the former total. Ginger, oranges and plantains are grown in the villages of Jám and Andhárgaon and sent to Nágpur.

The practice of growing second crops in rice fields and of irrigating rice has grown up since 1864. In a favourable year second crops are grown on as large an area as 341 square miles. An inferior variety of sugarcane called *kathai* which gives only half the usual outturn of sugar, but is easier to cultivate and less liable to damage by wild animals, has been generally adopted in preference to the superior canes. In the decade ending 1904 more than 1½ lakhs were advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act, principally for the construction of irrigation tanks, and nearly 6 lakhs under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, of which 3 lakhs were given out during the scarcity of 1902-03. A considerable proportion of this latter sum was expended in agricultural improvements.

No good cattle are bred in the District except in the small forest tract to the north of the Ambharghí range, where there are professional breeders of the Golar caste. The herds from here are taken to Baihar for grazing during six months of the year. Elsewhere no care is exercised in breeding, and the type produced is poor. Bullocks are imported from the Káuker and Bastar States and from the Sápura Districts, Chhindwár and Seoni, for rice cultivation, and from Berár in the spring crop area. Buffaloes are

**BHANDARA DISTRICT.**

used for rice cultivation and also for draught. They are not largely bred locally, the young males being imported from the northern Districts. They are slightly more expensive than bullocks, and are usually kept in combination with them, and are used for the heavy work of transplantation and harvesting. There are very few sheep, but numbers of goats are bred by ordinary agriculturists both for food and for religious offerings.

**Irrigation.**

The District of Bhandara has a larger irrigated area than any other in the Province, as much as 370 square miles, receiving an artificial supply of water in a normal year. This represents nearly a quarter of the net area under crop, and nearly half of that under rice, which, with the exception of a few thousand acres of sugarcane and vegetables, is the only crop to which irrigation is applied. In 1903-04 the irrigated area was 127 square miles. The water for irrigation is accumulated in village tanks of the ordinary kind and either percolates through the embankment or is drawn off to the fields by channels constructed of earth, from outlets cut in the centre or side of the embankment. A few of the large reservoirs, such as Nawegaon, Seoni and Siregaon, have rough masonry sluices. A system is also practised of constructing small embankments to hold up water temporarily during the monsoon months; in September and October these are cut, and the water taken on to the rice fields, while wheat is sown in the bed of the tank. Irrigation is at present almost entirely dependent on a sufficient supply of rain to fill the tanks at some period during the monsoon, and in 1899, when there was a complete failure of the rainfall, only about 4 per cent. of the normal cropped area could be supplied with water. The configuration of the country, and the hill ranges traversing the District, afford a number of favourable sites for large storage reservoirs similar to those already constructed by the people, and several projects of this nature have been prepared by the Irrigation department. The construction of the Khairbanda tank to protect 4,000 acres is nearly completed.

**Forests.**

Government forest covers 532 square miles, of which all but 8 are reserved forests. The chief areas are situated

on the Ambágarh, Gaikhuri and Partágarh ranges, and there is a small block to the west of Panní. The higher levels of the Gaikhuri and Partágarh hills contain a certain amount of teak. Elsewhere the ordinary mixed species are found. Bamboos are abundant. The bulk of the revenue comes from timber and bamboos, and the rest from the usual minor forest produce. The value of forest produce sold in 1903-04 was Rs. 45,000. Besides the Government reserves, the District contains 946 square miles of tree forest, principally in the zamindáris. Some teak-forest is found in Darekasá and Silekasá.

BHANDARA  
DISTRICT.

The manganeso ores in the District are now being worked by a European firm, the principal deposits being near Tumsar. About 150 labourers are employed, and the output for 1904 was 3,558 tons. Deposits of iron ore of a superior quality exist in several villages in the Tirorá taluk, and are worked to a small extent by native artificers. A little gold is obtained by washing in the Sonjharí Dudhí river.

The weaving of silk-bordered cloths is a substantial industry in Bhandára, and has not yet been seriously affected by the competition of the mills. The principal centres are Bhandára, Pauní, Mohári and Audhárgaon, and the total number of persons employed is about 6,000. Fine cotton cloths are woven with coloured silk borders, usually red, and the weavers in Pauní use counts as fine as 80's. The silk thread comes from Assam through Nágpur ready dyed. Ordinary country cotton cloth is also produced in considerable quantities by Melrás, who live in large numbers in Tumsar and the surrounding villages. Cotton cloths are dyed with imported materials in a number of villages, about 500 persons being employed in this industry in Bení. In Bhandám all kinds of brass vessels are made. Stone jars are turned out in Kanerí and cart-wheels in Tumsar. Soft grass matting and bedding is manufactured from a grass called *avkhwáda*, and bamboo baskets and matting are made in a number of villages.

Arts and  
Manufactures.

Rice is the staple export, and is sent to Bombay for the foreign trade, and also to Nágpur and Borár. Wheat, gram, the pulso *urad* and oilseeds are also exported, these grains being generally taken by cart from Pauní to

Commerce.

BHANDARA  
DISTRICT.

Nággpur. Of the forest produce teak and *betulá* (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), timber and bamboos, and *makhú*, myrabolam, hides and wax are generally exported; and various articles of local manufacture, as brassware, silk-bordered cloths and stone jars, are sent to neighbouring Districts. In the last few years there have been considerable exports of mangauese. Cotton piece-goods are imported from the Nággpur and Bombay mills, and English cloth both from Bombay and Calcutta. Yarn is obtained from the Nággpur and Hinganghát mills. Kerosene oil is brought from Bombay and is now solely used for lighting. Sea salt is brought from Bombay. Mauritius sugar is principally used. *Gur* or unrefined sugar is both produced locally and imported from Bombay and the United Provinces. A certain amount of *jowar* and the pulse *arhar* is brought into the District for consumption from Berár and Nággpur. The principal trading stations are Gondia and Tumsar, and after them Tirorá and Amgaon. Tumsar is the centro for the part of the District north-west of the Waingangá, and for the adjoining tracts of Seoní and Bálághát. South of the Waingangá the trade of the Tirorá tahsil on both sides of the railway goes to Tirorá, Gondia and Amgaon according to their relative proximity.

Railways and  
Roads.

The Bengal-Nággpur line passes through the northern portion of the District, with a length of 78 miles and ten stations including Bhandára within its borders. The Sátpurá narrow-gauge extension starts north from Gondia junction, and has a length of 11 miles and one station in the District. The most important roads are the eastern road running through the south of the District, and the roads from Tumsar to Rámpailí and Katangi, from Gondia to Bálághát and from Tirorá to Khairánji. The length of metalled roads is 136 miles and of unmetalled 259, all of which, except 21 miles of the latter class maintained by the District council, are in charge of the Public Works department, the expenditure on upkeep being Rs. 58,000. Avenues exist on 26 miles.

## Famine.

The years 1822, 1832 and 1869 are remembered as having been marked by famine from failure of rainfall. After 1869, the year of the Bundelkhand famine, the District prospered until the cycle of bad seasons commenced in 1894.

Two years of poor crops were followed by a harvest of less than half the normal in 1895-96, and of one-third of the normal in 1896-97. Severe distress occurred in the latter year, the numbers on relief rising to 43,000 persons or 6 per cent. of the population in June 1897, and the total expenditure being 10 lakhs. Again in 1899-1900 both the rice and wheat harvests were complete failures and famine ensued. About 140,000 persons, or nearly 19 per cent. of the population were on relief in July 1900, and the total expenditure was 26 lakhs. In both these famines besides improvements to communications large numbers of tanks were constructed and repaired. In 1902 there was again a very poor rice crop and some local relief was given, tank works also being undertaken by the Irrigation department.

The Deputy Commissioner usually has a staff of three Assistant or Extra-Assistant Commissioners. For administrative purposes the District is divided into three tahsils, each of which has a tahsildār and naib-tahsildār. The Forest Officer is generally a member of the Provincial service. The Executive Engineer of the Bhandāra Public Works division, comprising Bhandāra and Bālaghāt Districts, is stationed at Bhandāra.

The civil judicial staff consists of a District and a Sub-ordinate Judge, and a Munsiff at each tahsil. The Divisional and Sessions Judge of the Nāgpur Division has jurisdiction in Bhandāra. There are benches of honerary magistrates at Bhandāra, Rāmpailī, and Amgaon. Suits brought for the use of water for irrigation are a noticeable feature of the civil litigation. Heinous crimes are somewhat numerous in Bhandāra, murders committed with an axe being a comparatively common offence. Cattle thefts are also frequent.

Owing to large changes in the area of the District, the old figures of the revenue demand cannot usefully be compared with the present ones. Under Marāthā administration short-term settlements were the rule. The farm of a certain area was given to an official called a *māmlatdar*, generally a court favourite, who made himself responsible for the revenue. Each village had a *pātel* or headman who acted as its representative and engaged for the revenue

BHANDARA DISTRICT.

District sub-divisions and staff.

Civil and Criminal Justice.

Land Revenue administration.

BHANDARA  
DISTRICT.

demand which rose and fell according to the circumstances of the year. The demand was distributed over the fields of the village, each of which had a number representing its proportionate value. The *patel* had no proprietary right, but his office was generally hereditary, descending not necessarily to the eldest son, but to the most capable member of the family. The tenants also had no legal status but were seldom ejected so long as they paid their rents, more especially as the supply of land was in excess of the number of cultivators available to till it. The result of the system was, however, that the *múlatdars*, who were usually Maráthá Bráhmans, managed to get a large number of villages into their own hands and those of their relations, and when proprietary rights were conferred by the British Government they thus became hereditary landowners. After the acquisition of the District in 1853, short-term settlements were continued for a few years. Preparations for the first regular survey were commenced in 1856, and a thirty years settlement was completed in 1867, the demand then fixed being 4.57 lakhs in the area now constituting the District. During the currency of this settlement the District prospered, the price of agricultural produce rose greatly on the construction of the railway, and cultivation expanded. The District was re-settled in the years 1894-99, and the revenue raised to 6.01 lakhs, which was equivalent to an increase of 38 per cent. in the *khdta* and 69 per cent. in the *zamindári* estates. The average revenue incidence per cultivated acre was R. 0-10-11 (maximum R. 1-3-1, minimum R. 0-5-4), while the corresponding rental incidence was R. 0-15-4 (maximum R. 1-3-9, minimum R. 0-5-5). The collections of revenue have varied as shown below, in thousands of rupees :—

	1880-81.	1890-01.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	4.02	4.08	2.77 <sup>1</sup>	5.66
Total revenue ...	7.59	8.41	5.57	8.87

<sup>1</sup> In the year 1900-01 the land revenue collections were short owing to famine.

The management of local affairs, outside municipal areas, is entrusted to a District council and three local boards, each having jurisdiction over one tahsil. The income of the District council for 1903-04 was Rs. 61,000, while the expenditure on education was Rs. 24,000 and on civil works Rs. 17,000. BHANDARA, TUMSAR and PAUNI are municipal towns.

The force under the District Superintendent of Police consists of 352 officers and men including 3 mounted constables, besides 2,116 village watchmen for 1,638 inhabited villages. Bhandāra has a District jail with accommodation for 126 prisoners including 11 females. The daily average number of prisoners in 1904 was 70.

In respect of education Bhandāra is neither particularly advanced nor backward, 2·5 per cent. of the population (5·2 males and 1 female) being able to read and write. Statistics of the number of pupils under instruction are as follows:—1880-81, 3,899; 1890-91, 7,630; 1900-01, 7,682; 1903-04, 8,228, including 275 girls. The schools comprise 2 English middle schools at Bhandāra, with 5 vernacular middle schools and 129 primary schools, besides 2 private schools. One of the Bhandāra English schools is managed by the Free Church Mission. Two high school classes have been opened at the expense of a private resident in the new English school, but have not yet been recognised by the University. There are 6 'girls' schools, 3 in Bhandāra and one each at Pauni, Sanichari and Tumsar. A separate school for low-caste Dher boys is maintained at Pauni. The expenditure on education in 1903-04 was Rs. 46,000, the income from fees being Rs. 4,500.

The District has eight dispensaries, with accommodation for 59 in-patients. During 1904, 93,106 cases, of which 32½ were those of in-patients, were treated in these institutions and 2,111 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 12,000, of which the greater part was provided from Provincial and local funds.

Vaccination is compulsory in the municipal towns of Bhandāra, Tumsar and Pauni. The percentage of successful vaccinations in 1903-04 was 45 per 1,000 of the population, or higher than the Provincial average.



BHANDARA  
DISTRICT.

(A. B. Napier, *Settlement Report*, 1902. A District Gazetteer is being prepared.)

BHANDARA  
TAHSIL.

**Bhandara Tahsil.**—The western tahsil of the Bhandara District of the Central Provinces, lying between 20° 40' and 21° 43' N. and 79° 27' and 79° 55' E., with an area of 1,088 square miles. The population in 1901 was 204,153, and in 1891 was 229,287. The density of population is 187 persons per square mile. The tahsil contains three towns, BHANDARA, the tahsil and District headquarters, population 14,023, PAUNI (9,866) and TUMSAN (8,116), and 507 inhabited villages. Excluding 204 square miles of Government forest, 63 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The land revenue demand in 1903-04 was Rs. 2,00,000 and that for cesses Rs. 20,000. The tahsil occupies a narrow strip of land along the west of the District, consisting mainly of open level country bordering the Wainganga, a considerable area being covered with fertile black soil. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 483 square miles, of which 35 square miles were irrigated.

## TIROBA.

**Tirora.**—The northern tahsil of the Bhandara District, Central Provinces, lying between 21° 10' and 21° 47' N. and 79° 43' and 80° 40' E., with an area of 1,328 square miles. The population in 1901 was 291,514, and in 1891 was 334,579. The density of population is 220 persons per square mile. The tahsil contains 571 inhabited villages. Tirora, the tahsil headquarters, is a village of 3,640 persons, 30 miles distant from Bhandara, on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Excluding 88 square miles of Government forest, 56 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The land revenue demand in 1903-04 was Rs. 1,46,000 and that for cesses Rs. 22,000. The tahsil includes 11 zamindari estates covering an area of 769 square miles, of which 163 are under forest. It consists roughly of an open level tract of rice-growing land with forests towards the eastern border. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 657 square miles, of which 40 square miles were irrigated.

## SAKOLI.

**Sakoli.**—The southern tahsil of the Bhandara District, Central Provinces, situated between 20° 41' and 21° 17' N. and 79° 43' and 80° 34' E., with an area of 1,549 square

miles. The population in 1901 was 167,395, and in 1891 Sakoli was 178,984. The density of population per square mile is 108. The tahsil contains 557 inhabited villages. Its headquarters are situated at Sakoli, a village of 2,019 persons, distant 24 miles from Bhandara by road. Excluding 240 square miles of Government forest, 32 per cent. only of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The land revenue demand in 1903-04 was Rs. 1,25,000 and that for cesses Rs. 12,000. The tahsil includes 17 zamindari estates with a total area of 710 square miles, of which 100 consist of forest. It is a rice-growing tract broken up by small ranges of hills, and contains the large irrigation tanks for which Bhandara is noted. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 350 square miles, of which 55 square miles were irrigated.

**Bhandara Town.**—The headquarters town of the Bhandara tahsil and District, Central Provinces, situated in 21° 10' N. and 79° 40' E., on the Wainganga river, 7 miles from a station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Population (1901) 14,023. The town contains an old fort said to have been built by the Gaois, which is now used as a jail. Bhandara was constituted a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 15,000. By 1903-04 the income had more than doubled and amounted to Rs. 35,000, the chief sources being octroi and water-rate. The water-supply is obtained from the Wainganga. Three filtration wells have been constructed in the bed of the river and water is raised from them to a service reservoir near the jail. The works were opened in 1900, the cost of the scheme being 1·84 lakhs, and the annual maintenance charges about Rs. 6,000. The principal industry of the town is brass-working, and its name is said to be derived from *bhāra*, a brass dish. Cotton cloth is also woven, but the trade of the place is not considerable. The educational institutions comprise a private high school supported by contributions from the residents, an English middle and several other boys' and girls' schools. Three dispensaries are maintained, including mission and police hospitals. The United Free Church of Scotland established a mission station here in 1852, and now supports an orphanage, dispensary and several schools.

## GONDIA.

Gondia.—A village in the Tirorā tahsil, Bhandāra District, Central Provinces, situated in  $21^{\circ} 28' N.$  and  $80^{\circ} 13' E.$ , on the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway, 81 miles from Nāgpur and 661 from Bombay. Gondia is the junction for the new Sātpurā narrow-gauge railway which runs to Jubbulpore across the Sātpurā plateau. Population (1901) 4,457. It is one of the two leading goods stations in the Bhandāra District, receiving the produce of the surrounding area of Bhandāra and of the lowlands of the adjoining Balāghāt District. A large weekly grain-market is held here. The greater part of the town stands on Government land, and the ground rents realised are credited to a fund for sanitary purposes, which is supplemented by a house-rate. A branch station of the American Pentecostal Mission of Rāj-Nāndgaon has recently been established. Gondia contains Hindi and Marāthi primary schools, and a dispensary.

## PAUNI.

Pauni.—A town in the Bhandāra tahsil and District of the Central Provinces, situated in  $20^{\circ} 48' N.$  and  $79^{\circ} 39' E.$ , on the Waingangā river, 32 miles south of Bhandāra by road. Population (1901) 9,366. Some bathing *ghāts* or flights of stone steps have been constructed on the bank of the Waingangā, and the town contains a fort which was stormed by the British in 1818. Pauni was constituted a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 4,200. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 4,500, being mainly derived from a house-tax. The staple industry of the town is the manufacture of silk-bordered cloths, and thread of very fine counts is woven. The weavers are, however, not very prosperous. The town stands in the fertile black soil tract called the Pauni Haveli. It contains vernacular middle and girls' schools, a school for low-caste Dher boys and an Urdu school, and also a dispensary.

## TUMSAR.

Tumsar.—A town in the Bhandāra tahsil and District, Central Provinces, situated in  $21^{\circ} 23' N.$  and  $79^{\circ} 46' E.$ , on the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway, 27 miles from Bhandāra and 570 from Bombay. Population (1901) 8,116. The town was constituted a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 5,400. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 4,000 and was principally derived

from a house-tax and market-dues. Tumsar is an important commercial town receiving the produce of the north of the District and the adjoining tracts of Seoni and Balághát. A covered market place has been constructed and a large weekly grain market is held here. The rice grown in the vicinity of Tumsar has a special reputation for excellence. The local handicrafts include cotton-weaving, which is carried on in the town and several adjoining villages, the annual purchases of thread by the weavers being estimated at 3 lakhs. White loin-cloths with red borders are the chief articles woven. Numbers of cart-wheels are also made in Tumsar and exported to Nágpur and Berár. The town possesses a vernacular middle school and a girls' school and a dispensary.

**Balaghat District.**—A District of the Central Provinces, situated between 21° 19' and 22° 24' N. and 79° 39' and 81° 3' E., with an area of 3,132 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Mándlá District; on the east by the Biláspur and Drug Districts and the Kawardhá and Khairágarh States; on the south by Bhandára; and on the west by Seoni. The District consists of an upland section of the most easterly portion of the Sátpurá plateau, and of a strip of low country forming part of the valley of the Waingangá, and extending along the southern and western border of the hills. The eastern ridge of the Sátpurás, known as the Maikála range, divides it from the Chhattisgarh plain. The hills and elevated plateaux, which occupy about two-thirds of the District, extend in the north almost across its entire width, with the exception of a small lowland strip to the north-west consisting of the valley of the Waingangá, here only about 10 miles wide, and forming the Mau estate. The greater part of the hilly country is included in the Baihar tahsil, and outside the Feudatory States, is perhaps the wildest and most backward area in the Province. It consists mainly of the three tablelands of Paraswára, Baihar and Raigarh from west to east. The Raigarh plateau, which is about 2,000 feet high, is a small open stretch of undulating country covered with high grass, and surrounded by thickly wooded hills, the highest peaks of which rise to 2,000 feet. It is drained by the Hálon and Kashmíri rivers, and is

BALAGHAT  
DISTRICT.  
Boundaries,  
configuration,  
and hill and  
river systems.

BALAGHAT  
DISTRICT.

approached from Baihar by the passes of Bhainsághát and Lapti running through dense forest. The main tableland of Baihar to the west of Raigarh and about 200 feet below it, is also very undulating and covered with thick forest, the soil being generally sandy, and cultivation consisting principally of the minor autumn millets, as the slopes are frequently too steep to permit of the growth of rice. The valley is watered by the Banjár and its tributary the Tannor, which passes Baihar. Further west and separated from the Banjár valley by a long ridge lies the Paraswara plateau slightly lower than that of Baihar, and somewhat more fertile. It is watered by the Kanhar, a tributary of the Banjár, and on the west is bounded by another range of hills leading down to the Wainganga valley. The drainage of this part of the District is north to the Narbadá. South of the main plateau the hilly country consists of small and scattered tablelands, with a southerly inclination and gradually narrowing in from the west. The hills are for the most part covered with forests belonging to zamindari estates. Along the base of the outer spurs of hills lies the plain country of the District forming part of the valley of the Wainganga, narrow and closely shut in by hills to the north, and gradually opening out on both sides of the river to the south-east and south-west. The general elevation of this part of the District is about 1,000 feet above sea-level. It is watered by the Wainganga and several minor streams, the principal of which are the Bág, Ghisri, Deo and Son. The Wainganga flows nearly due south through Bágghát, its width varying from 200 yards in the upper reaches to 100 lower down. Its bed is generally rocky. The Bág rises in the Chíchgarh hills of Bhandára and flows north and north-west, forming for a short distance the boundary between Bilághát and Bhandára. It is crossed by the Sátpurá railway just before its junction with the Wainganga on the border of the District. The Ghisri, Deo and Son rise in the eastern range of hills, and join the Bág after a short and rapid course. On the west of the Wainganga the low country, broken in places by isolated hills, lies along the eastern and southern border of the portion of the Sátpurá range belonging to the Seoni District, a

triangular strip of which abuts into Bálághát. The Saráhi is the only stream of any consequence on this side. The low-land country is well watered and studded with fruit trees, and is principally devoted to the growth of rice.

BALAGHAT  
DISTRICT.

Gneissic and metamorphic rocks are the main formations, and there are a few outliers of Deccan trap in the north. The gneissic rocks belong partly to a highly metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic series resembling the Dhárwár schists of southern India and known locally as the Chilpí beds. The metamorphic or transition rocks consist of quartzites, shales and limestones.

The extensive forests of the District are mainly of the mixed character usual in Central India. Along the Wain-gangá river are scattered patches of teak (*Tectona grandis*), and towards the north-east *sál* (*Shorea robusta*) is the dominant tree. In various parts of the District fine clumps of bamboos occur. Besides *sál*, which is plentiful, and teak, which is always scarce or local, the principal trees to be met with are *shj* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *beulá* (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), *shisham* (*Dalbergia sissoo*), *dhaurá* (*Anogeissus latifolia*), *palás* (*Butea frondosa*), *aonlá* (*Phyllanthus emblica*), *haldá* (*Adina cordifolia*), *lendá* (*Lagerstrœmia parviflora*), *moyen* (*Odina Wodier*), with species of *Diospyros*, *Schleichera*, *Schrebera*, *Soyimida*, *Boswellia*, *Bombax*, *Garuga*, *Buchanania*, and *Stereospermum*. Shrubs and small trees include *Grewia*, *Zizyphus*, *Nyctanthus*, *Flueggia*, *Cleistanthus*, *Woodfordia* and *Casuarina*.

The usual kinds of game, including tiger, leopard and deer, are fairly plentiful. Bison are found in the Sonáwáni forests, in Bájágarh, and in the north of the plateau. Herds of *hitgai* roam on the Raigarh plateau and swamp deer are met with in the Toplá reserve. There are a few herds of black buck on the Baihar plateau. In the Hirri forests are some wild cattle, descended from tame ones let loose, which do serious damage to the crops but are not killed. Wild duck are fairly plentiful in the tanks in the open country but snipe are less frequent.

The uplands of Baihar are subject to sharp frosts in December and January, which cause much injury to the

**BALAGHAT DISTRICT.**

foliage of trees and the cold weather crops. The climate of Balághát is that of the Nágpur plain, but it is especially damp in the monsoon season. As usual in rice country, malaria is prevalent in the autumn months. The Baihar tahsil, owing to its heavy rainfall and dense forest, is notoriously unhealthy from August to December, and the mortality from malaria has largely contributed to retard immigration. The particles of mica suspended in the water also tend to produce gastritis.

**Rainfall.**

The average annual rainfall at Balághát is 82 inches, and exceeds that of any other District in the Province. The District owes its copious rainfall to the fact that it is encircled by hills on the north and east, on which the rain clouds brought up by the south-west monsoon impinge. Until within the last few years the rainfall has seldom been deficient.

**History.**

Balághát, as it now stands, has only recently been constituted. The Baihar tahsil formerly belonged to the Mandlá District, and formed part of the dominions of the Gond dynasty of Garhá Mandlá. The eastern part of it was for some time assigned to the chief of Kawardhá as a reward for service. Soon after the beginning of the 19th century the greater part of the tahsil was laid waste by an inroad of the Gond Rání of Rámgarh in Mandlá, and at the time of the cession in 1818 the country was sparsely populated. Of the low country, the old *parganas* of Hattá, Dhansuá and Lánji were included in the Mandlá territories, while the tract on the west of the Waingangá belonged to the Deogarh kingdom, which was annexed by the Bhonsla rulers of Nágpur in 1743. In 1798 the Bhonslas also obtained the Mandlá territories, and the bulk of what is now the Balághát tahsil was then administered from Bhandára. At this period the greater part of it was covered with forest, and several of the present zamindari estates originated in grants of territory made by the Maráthás for the purpose of opening up the country. In 1862, when the Baihar tahsil, then attached to Mandlá, was being settled, the attention of Government was directed to its

natural resources, and it was recommended that special measures should be taken to colonise it. With this object sanction was obtained in 1867 to the formation of a new District, consisting of the Baihar tahsil and a fringe of open country below the hills, which was taken from the Bhandāra and Seoni Districts, and from which was to be obtained a supply of colonists for the upland plateaux. The task of reclaiming from waste the remote and hitherto almost unknown plateau of Baihar was entrusted to Colonel Bloomfield, for many years Deputy Commissioner of the Balāghāt District, and under his management some progress was made towards settling the large expanse of fertile waste land with sturdy Ponwār peasantry. But owing principally to the unhealthiness of the climate, and partly also to changes in Government policy, and the neglect of local officials, no very great or permanent advance has been made; and the tract remains one of the poorest in the Province. Very recently (1904) fresh measures have been taken for the systematic encouragement of immigration. A scheme for liberal advances for the reclamation of land has been sanctioned, the construction of a number of tanks undertaken, and other inducements offered to immigrants of the good agricultural castes.

The archaeological remains are not of much importance. Archaeology. Baihar contains a number of stone tanks and ruined temples, some built in the Hemādpanthi style without cement. The fort of Lānji was built by the Gondṣ early in the eighteenth century, and was afterwards the headquarters of a *kamaishāh* under the Marāṭhās. Human sacrifices are said to have been formerly offered at the temple of the Lānji Devi, the tutelary deity of the place. About a mile from the town, in the bamboo forest, stands the temple of Koteswar, at which a small annual fair is held. At Mau in the middle of a tank, about a mile from the village, a granite platform has been constructed on which is the image of a Nāga and a pillar. Other remains are at Bīsāpur near Katāngī, Sonkhār Bhāmlat, and Sawarjūri near Bhiri.



BALAGHAT  
DISTRICT.  
The people.

The population of the District at the last three enumerations was as follows: 1881, 340,614; 1891, 383,363; 1901, 326,521. Up to 1891 the District prospered and the rate of increase was about equal to the Provincial average. During the last decade the decrease of population has been nearly 57,000 persons, or about 15 per cent. The District was very severely affected by famine both in 1896 and 1897, and the Balághát tahsil also in 1900, and the decrease of population is mainly to be attributed to this cause. About 11,000 persons emigrated to Assam during the last decade. The District contains one town BALAGHAT and 1,075 inhabited villages. The principal statistics of population based on the census of 1901 are shown below:—

Tahsil.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Popula- tion.	Popula- tion per square mile.	Percent- age of variation in popula- tion be- tween 1891 and 1901.	Number able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Balághát	1,399	1	562	230,141	172	— 17.6	5,613
Baliar	1,741	—	403	86,240	49	— 6.1	1,453
District Total	3,140	1	1,075	326,371	104	— 14.0	7,029

In 1904, 11 villages containing 1,150 persons were transferred from Balághát to Mandlā, while a tract of reserved forest was received from that District. The revised totals of area and population are given above. About 75 per cent. of the population are Hindus, 22 per cent. Animists, and 6,454 persons are Muhammadans. The eastern portions of the District have been largely populated by immigration from Chhattisgarh, as is shown by the fact that nearly 145,000 persons, or 44 per cent. of the total, speak the Chhattisgarhi dialect. Of the balance the language of 84,342 persons is shown as Maráthi and that of 54,168 persons as Gondí. The Ponwárs, numbering 41,106, have a special dialect, a mixture of Hindí and Maráthi, and the Marárs another of somewhat the same nature.

Their castes  
and occupa-  
tions.

The principal landowning castes are Ponwárs, Gonds and Lodhis. Ponwárs (41,000) are the best cultivators and are especially skilful at the irrigation of rice. Many Ponwárs also are lessees of villages in the zamindári estates and headmen of

ryotwari villages in the Baihar tahsil. The Lodhis (18,000) are partly immigrants from Chhattisgarh, and partly from northern India. Gonds (73,000) constitute 32 per cent. of the population, and Baigás and Binjháls (6,000) 2 per cent. The Gonds are found both in the Bálaghát and Baihar tahsils, and those of the open country are gradually adopting settled methods of cultivation in imitation of the Hindu tenants. Those of the Baihar tahsil are still backward and migratory. The Pardhás are the priests of the Gond and take the clothes and jewels of the dead, and the Ojhás are bird-catchers and tattooers. The Gonds are polygamous in Bálaghát, and the number of a man's wives gives an indication of his wealth and dignity, as many as six being by no means extraordinary. On market days a Gond goes to the bazar with all his wives walking behind him to show his importance. The Baigás are also priests of the Gonds and are employed to lay the ghosts of persons who have been killed by tigers. They are one of the wildest of the tribes and are incapable of sustained manual labour, though they are clever at transplanting rice-plants. This is the only field-work which they usually do for hire. They collect forest produce and exchange it for small quantities of grain, and will subsist for weeks together on roots and fruits, in the collection of which they display the greatest skill. Since the system of *barabar* or patch cultivation has been stopped in Government forest, the Baigás are hard put to it to make a living. An attempt was made to teach them to adopt regular cultivation by settling them in five villages under the direct supervision of the revenue officials of Baihar, but it has been given up as a failure. Some idea of the difficulty to be encountered may be gained from the fact that Baigá tenants if left unwatched would dig up the grain which they had themselves sown and eat it. They are skilled woodmen and some are employed as forest guards. They also catch fish and make bamboo matting to a small extent. Both Gonds and Baigás suffered severely in the famines. Farm-servants are recruited from all castes, but are principally Góvárás. In the Baihar tahsil are a number of Golars (1,200) and Banjárs (1,000) who are professional cattle-graziers. About 72 per cent. of the

BALAGHAT  
DISTRICT.

**BALAGHAT DISTRICT.**

population of the District were shown as dependent on agriculture in 1901.

**Christian Missions.**

Christians number 219, including 101 natives, most of whom belong to the Bálághát Mission. This institution is nuscetarian, and its efforts are principally directed to the conversion of the Gonds and Baigás. It was founded by the Reverend J. Lampard, who still directs it, and it has four stations at Bálághát, Baihar, Nikum and Khursípár, with schools at each station, an orphanage and an industrial farm.

**General agricultural conditions**

The quality of the soil in the plains is as a rule much superior to that of the plateau. It is of greater depth and more fertile, while in Baihar the mixture of particles of mica with the soil also reduces its productive capacity. The alluvial land on the banks of the Son and other rivers in the eastern parts of the lowlands is the most fertile of all, but its area is insignificant. Next to this the richest and deepest soil is found in the strip about ten miles wide extending along the left bank of the Waingangá from the Dhansuá hills to its junction with the Bágh. The plains of Dhansuá and Hattá *parganas* are rich in black and brown soil of superior quality and good depth; and there is also good brown soil in the north Karolá tract to the west of the Waingangá, and in Bhadrá zamindari to the extreme south-east. In the hilly country and the Mau valley the soil is generally medium or poor, dark soil being only found in patches in the Mau valley and in the shallow depressions, which form a characteristic feature of the plateaux. The Raigarh plateau is the most fertile portion of the Baihar tahsil, but the tract is very thinly populated, and much of the land unreclaimed. The good quality of the soil, however, renders this area rich in pasturage. In the hill villages of the zamindaris the land is, as a rule, very poor, being largely intermixed with stones and gravel or coarse sand.

**Chief agricultural statistics and crops.**

Of the total area 923 square miles or 29 per cent. are included in the 12 zamindari estates. There are about 280 ryotwari villages with an area of 370 square miles, of which 90 are cultivated and pay a revenue of Rs. 20,000, while 4,000 acres have been sold outright under the Waste

Land Rules. The remaining area is held on the ordinary <sup>BALAGHAT DISTRICT.</sup> tenures. The following table gives the leading statistics of cultivation in 1903-04, with areas in square miles:—

Tahsil.	Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated	Culturable waste.	Forests.
Balaghat	1,383	661	24	429	308
Baihar	1,744	220	27	467	66
Total	3,127	881	51	896	374

Not much of the fertile land in the low country remains unoccupied, but elsewhere there is considerable scope for extension of cultivation. Rice occupies 368 square miles, *kodon* and *kulki* 187 square miles, wheat 23, *urad* 7½, linseed 57, gram 34, and *tiurd* 36. Rice is by far the most important crop of the District, and in sowing it the system of transplantation is usually practised. *Kodon*, the staple food of the Gonds, is grown chiefly in the hilly tracts, and in the plateaux of Baihar and Raigarh. Tobacco is cultivated in the alluvial soil of the Son valley, and is a very profitable crop. It covers rather less than 1,000 acres. Castor is sown in rotation with tobacco. Sugarcane was grown on 1,306 acres in 1903-04.

Between 1867 and 1895 the area taken up for cultivation increased by 31 per cent., and that actually cropped by 19 <sup>improvements in agricultural practices.</sup> per cent. The area on which two crops were grown in the year and the number of tanks constructed for irrigation largely increased during the same period. The famines of 1897 and 1900, however, caused a decline in the cropped area which had not been recovered by 1903-04. Manure is now more largely applied to the rice crop, and cattle and small stock are sometimes penned at night in the fields during the summer months. In the decade ending 1903-04, Rs. 72,000 were advanced by Government under the Land Improvement Loans Act, and nearly 7½ lakhs under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

Cattle are bred principally in the Baihar tahsil, where <sup>and sheep.</sup> there are excellent grazing grounds. The ordinary cattle are

BALAGHAT  
DISTRICT.

small and not particularly strong. The best bullocks are bred by Golars and are sold as yearlings at fairly good prices. Bulls are always reserved for breeding by the owners of any considerable number of cows. Buffaloes are used for the heavy work of hauling the rice plants from the nurseries at the time of transplantation. They are not bred to any considerable extent in Bálághát, but young males are imported from the northern Districts. The grazing grounds are generally adequate, and those of the Bailhar tahsil are resorted to by large herds of cattle from the surrounding Districts during the hot weather months. There are no members of the professional shepherd caste, but goats are bred by ordinary landholders for food and to be used as religious offerings. Pigs are reared for the same purposes in the Bailhar tahsil. Very few sheep are kept. The principal cattle markets are at Wáráseoní and Lálhurá in the plain country and at Bhúri on the plateau.

## Irrigation.

About 150 square miles can ordinarily be irrigated, but in 1903-04 the area was only 27 square miles owing to the unfavourable rainfall. With the exception of about 7 square miles under sugarcane and garden crops this is practically all rice land. Nearly 40 per cent. of the rice area, or 25 per cent. of the total area, can be watered in a normal year. There are nearly 3,000 tanks and about 4,000 wells, the latter being generally used for garden crops and sugarcane. Numerous tanks have been constructed by Government agency in the Bailhar tahsil, and plans for much larger works to protect a large proportion of the District have been prepared.

## Forests.

The Government forests cover an area of 972 square miles and are situated mainly on the hilly ranges of Bailhar with blocks on the banks of the Waingangá and to the south-east. Teak grows in patches in the Sonáwání and Paraswára ranges. The Bailhar and Raigarh ranges contain pure *sal* forest of excellent quality, and *sal* mixed with other species, while the lowland blocks contain only inferior timber trees. Till recently the difficulties of transport have been too great to permit of any substantial revenue being obtained from timber, but the opening of the Sápura railway should greatly increase the sales. The forest revenue for 1903-04 amounted to Rs. 2,09,000 of which Rs. 1,00,000 were

obtained from sales of timber and Rs. 15,000 from grazing. BALAGHAT DISTRICT.  
The large revenue from timber was principally due to a contract for the supply of sleepers. The principal minor products are lac and myrabolams. The zamindári estates contain 401 square miles of forest.

Deposits of iron ore occur in the Bhadrá, Kinfí and Minerals. Bhánpur zamindáris. Iron is smelted by native workmen by indigenous methods, but the output is small. Manganese deposits have been found near Balághát town, and are being worked by a European company. The output for 1904 was 10,323 tons, and about 300 labourers are employed. There are other numerous deposits of manganese ore which are as yet unworked. Copper ore exists in the hill of Melánjkundí. Mica is plentiful in the Baihar tahsil, but the plates are not sufficiently large to be marketable. Bauxite, used for the manufacture of aluminium, is also found in the Baihar tahsil. Gold is obtained by washing in the Son and Deo rivers.

The principal local industry is the weaving of coarse Arts and Manufactures.  
country cloth, the chief centres being Wárásoní and Jálharrá with the villages round them. Jálharrá *dhotis* are well known and are exported to the other Sitpuri Districts and to Jubbulpore. Lángá, Borgaon and Hattá also contain considerable colonies of weavers. In the Wárásoní tract a number of Otáris make ornaments and vessels from brass by moulding, while the Káárs of Wárásoní and Hattá make ornaments of bell metal. Glass bangles are manufactured at Lánji from imported Indian glass. At Baihar a variety of small tin vessels, such as lamps, sieves, betel boxes, and watering pots are made from empty kerosene oil-tins and sometimes sent to Mandlá.

Rice and the pulse *urad* are the principal exports. The Commerce.  
former is sent principally to Berár and the latter to Bombay for the foreign trade. Tobacco is supplied to Chhattiegarh from the Bijágarh zamindári. *Ghi* manufactured from the milk of both cows and buffaloes is exported from Baihar tahsil. Of forest produce, teak is sent from the Sonáwáni and Cháre-gaon forests to Nágpur and Kámpet. Bamboos are exported to Kámpet and Seoni. Hides and horns, myrabolams, lac and gum are other forest products which are largely exported.

BALAGUAT  
DISTRICT.

The leaves of the *tendu* tree (*Diospyros tomentosa*) are collected for the manufacture of leaf-plates and the outside covering of *béris* or native cigarettes. Mill-woven cloth is brought from Nāgpur and Hinganghāt, and small quantities of English cloth from Bombay. The salt used is *gotandzi* or sea salt from Bombay. *Gur* or unrefined sugar comes from Mirzāpur or from Mandlā, while refined sugar is chiefly the produce of Mauritius. *Jowār*, wheat and gram are received from the neighbouring Sātpurā Districts, the local supply being inadequate, and the pulse *arhar* is obtained from Berār. Brass vessels are imported from Mandlā, Bhandāra, Jabhulpore and the United Provinces. The grain trade is principally in the hands of Mārwarī Banās. For timber, contracts are taken for Government and zamīndārī forests by Muhamadān merchants from Kumptee and Raipur.

Railways and  
Roads

The Sātpurā extension of the Bengal-Nāgpur line from Gendīā to Jabhulpore has recently been constructed, and passes through the west of the District up the valley of the Wain-gangā, with a length of 53 miles and six stations within its borders. The length of metalled roads in the District is 15 miles, and of unmetalled roads 208, and the annual expenditure on maintenance is Rs. 38,000, all these roads being in charge of the Public Works department. Avenues exist only on 16 miles. The opening of the railway will naturally effect a material alteration in the existing trade routes.

## Famine.

There are no reliable records of famine previous to 1868-69, in which year the rains ended abruptly a month before time, and the rice crop in the lowlands failed, leading to acute distress. A series of partial failures of the harvest was followed in 1896-97 by a more serious deficiency, the outturn of all crops taken together being only about 17 per cent. of normal. The numbers on relief rose to 68,000, or 16 per cent. of the population in May 1897, and the total expenditure was 18 lakhs. In 1899-1900 the rice crop again failed, the outturn being 23 per cent. of a normal harvest. Relief was begun in September 1899 and continued till November 1900, the highest number on relief being 135,000, or 35 per cent. of the population in August, and the total expenditure amounting to 26 lakhs. During these famines most of the existing roads were constructed

and the embankment of the Sātpurā railway was built. Many tanks were made or repaired by famine loans in 1897 and by grants to landowners in 1900.

The Deputy Commissioner is aided by one Assistant or Extra-Assistant Commissioner. For administrative purposes the District is divided into two tahsils, each of which has a tahsildār and naib-tahsildār. The Forest Officer usually belongs to the Imperial service, and for Public Works the District is included in the charge of the Executive Engineer, Bhandara Public Works Division.

The civil judicial staff consists of a District and one Sub-ordinate Judge, and a Munsiff at Bālagḥāt. The Divisional and Sessions Judge of the Nāgpur Division has jurisdiction in Bālagḥāt. Cattle-poisoning is a comparatively common form of offence.

The area now constituting Bālagḥāt was formerly included in the Districts of SEONI and BHANDARA and the land revenue demand was assessed at the thirty years settlement of those Districts. These expired in 1896—98 when revision was commenced, but it was somewhat delayed by the famines. The revenue demand before revision was Rs. 1,26,000, and this was raised to Rs. 1,87,000, or by 48 per cent. The current settlement is for a period of 16 years, and will expire in 1914. The average incidence of revenue per acre at settlement was R. 0-9-11 (maximum R. 0-15-1, minimum R. 0-2-10), the corresponding figures of rental incidence being average R. 0-15-6 (maximum R. 1-11-11, minimum R. 0-2-7). In Baihar a summary settlement has been made for 7 years without rental enhancement to allow the tract to recover from the effects of famine. In certain areas temporary remissions and abatements have been given. The collections of revenue in different years are shown below, in thousands of rupees:—

	1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	1,60	1,65	91	2,43
Total revenue	3,27	4,65	2,73	6,19



**BALAGHAT  
DISTRICT.  
Local Boards  
and Municipalities.**

The management of local affairs, outside municipal areas, is entrusted to a District council and three local boards, two for the Balághát tahsil and one for Raihar. The income of the District council in 1903-04 was Rs. 35,000, while the expenditure on education was Rs. 12,000 and on civil works Rs. 9,000. BALAGHAT is a municipal town.

**Police and  
Jails.**

The force under the District Superintendent of Police consists of 247 officers and men including 3 mounted constables, besides 843 village watchmen for 1,076 inhabited towns and villages. The District has a District jail with accommodation for 59 prisoners including 6 females. The daily average number of prisoners in 1901 was 52.

**Education.**

In respect of education Balághát stands 12th in the Province, 2·2 per cent. of the population (4·4 males and 1 females) being able to read and write. The percentage of children under instruction to those of school-going age is 10. Statistics of the number of pupils under instruction are as follows:—1880-81, 2,033; 1890-91, 2,597; 1900-01, 2,883; 1903-04, 4,603, including 65 girls. The educational institutions comprise an English middle school at Balághát, three vernacular middle schools and 62 primary schools. There are girls' schools at Balághát and Wárásoni, and a mixed school for girls and boys at Raihar supported by the Mission. The expenditure on education for 1903-04 was Rs. 17,000, of which Rs. 15,000 were provided from Provincial and local funds and Rs. 1,800 from fees.

**Hospitals and  
Dispensaries.**

The District has 6 dispensaries, with accommodation for 28 in-patients. In 1901, 38,483 cases, of which 253 were of indoor patients, were treated and 560 operations were performed. The total expenditure was Rs. 6,800.

**Vaccination.**

Vaccination is compulsory in the municipal town of Balághát only. The number of persons successfully vaccinated in 1903-04 was 31 per mille of the District population. (J. R. Scott, *Settlement Report*, 1901. A District Gazetteer is being compiled.)

**BALAGHAT  
TAHSIL.**

Balaghat Tahsil (*Bárhá*)—The southern tahsil of Balághát District, Central Provinces, lying between 21° 19' and 22° 5' N. and 79° 39' and 80° 45' E. In 1901, the area of the tahsil was 1,687 square miles, and its population

249,610 persons. In 1904 a redistribution of territory between the Bálághát and Baihar tahsils took place, and the adjusted figures of area and population were 1,388 square miles and 239,141 persons. The population in 1891 of the area now constituting the tahsil was 268,108. The tahsil contains one town BALAGHAT, the headquarters of the tahsil and District, population 6,223, and 582 inhabited villages. The density of population per square mile is 172 persons. Excluding 308 square miles of Government forest 56 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The land revenue demand in 1903-04 was Rs. 2,16,000 and that for cesses Rs 24,000. The tahsil consists of a rich lowland rice growing tract on both sides of the Waingangá river, and of a triangular block of hills to the north-east of the plain. It includes five complete zamindari estates and parts of three others. The total area of these estates is 439 square miles, of which 267 square miles are under forest.

**Baihar (Behar).—**The northern tahsil of the Bálághát District, Central Provinces, situated between  $21^{\circ} 32'$  and  $22^{\circ} 24'$  N. and  $80^{\circ} 2'$  and  $81^{\circ} 3'$  E. In 1901 its area was 1,452 square miles and population 76,911 persons. In 1904 a redistribution of territory between the Bálághát and Baihar tahsils took place, and also a small interchange of area between the Baihar tahsil and Mandlá District. The adjusted figures of area and population were 1,744 square miles and 86,230 persons. The population of the area now constituting the tahsil in 1891 was 91,860. The density of population per square mile is 49 persons. The tahsil contains 493 inhabited villages. Its headquarters are situated at Baihar, a village of 1,298 persons, 41 miles distant from Bálághát by road. Excluding 664 square miles of Government forest, 26 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The land revenue demand on the present area in 1903-04 was Rs 34,000 and that for cesses Rs. 4,000. The tahsil consists of a series of elevated plateaux divided and surrounded by ~~low~~ and covered for the most part with forest. Large areas of waste land are fit for cultivation, and their colonisation on the ryotwari system is in progress. The tahsil includes one whole zamindari estate and parts of three others, with a

**BÁTHAB.** total area of 434 square miles, of which 132 square miles are under forest.

**BALAGHAT TOWN.**

**Balaghat Town.**—The headquarters town of the Bálághát tahsil and District, Central Provinces, situated in  $21^{\circ} 49' N.$  and  $80^{\circ} 12' E.$  Population (1901) 6,223. When the District of Bálághát was constituted in 1867, the small village of Búrha was selected as its headquarters, and the name has now been officially changed to correspond with that of the District, which means above the passes. So far as the town is concerned, however, the name is a misnomer as it lies below the hills. Bálághát is a station on the new Sálpurá narrow-gauge line, 25 miles from Gondia junction and 626 from Bombay. It is situated two miles from the Waingangá river, and between the town and river lie about 1,200 acres of small forest through which roads have been laid out, while a large tank has been built on the outskirts of the town. Bálághát was created a municipality in 1877, and the average municipal receipts during the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 3,000. In 1903-04 they were Rs. 7,000, the chief source of income being a house-tax. A manganese mine is now being worked near the town. Bálághát has a certain amount of trade, but no manufactures. It contains an English middle school, a girls' school, and a dispensary.

**CROSS-  
REFERENCES.**

*Cross-references—(for the Imperial Gazetteer only).*

**Behir.**—Tahsil in Bálághát District, Central Provinces.

See **BÁTHAB.**

**Brahmapuri.**—Tahsil in Chánda District, Central Provinces. See **BRAMHAPURI.**

**Kamthi.**—Town in Nágpur District, Central Provinces.

See **KAMPTÉE.**

**Mulpa.**—Town in Nágpur District, Central Provinces.

See **MOHPA.**

**Sonair.**—Town in Nágpur District, Central Provinces.

See **SAONER.**

